THE ANNALS OF UPPER GEORGIA CENTERED IN GILMER COUNTY • WARD

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BY
GEORGE GORDON WARD

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The Annals of Upper Georgia,

Centered in Gilmer County

Narrative reminiscences, incidents and general data, some ancient but mainly for the first 129 years of the political existence of the region of Georgia comprising Gilmer County and its neighbors, 1833 to 1965.

By George Gordon Ward, A.B., B.D., official historian of Gilmer County.

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"The present is the living sum-total of the whole past."

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SECTION ONE

CHAPTER ONE

A Reminiscence

"My people came to this part of Georgia from Buncombe County, North Carolina. Migration to Gilmer was already about its peak. Travel in, over such crude trails as had already been developed, averaged but three miles a day. A road might be partly traceable, partly blazed through woods and at other points might fade out altogether.*

"Ranging along wilderness streams, through rugged gaps, between mountain walls, the migrants pushed south and west, letting nothing them dismay. When a river in flood barred the way, they simply waited until it ran down. It took that group 30 days to reach Ellijay, which they did on Christmas Day 1848.

"The new band was cordially received in the little county seat. An Ellijay 'grocer' treated everybody to whiskey. The settlers went on into western Gilmer and stopped a little short of the Cohutta mountains.

"These people brought along, in addition to the oxen pulling their wagons, sheep, cattle, poultry. Among their hogs was a sow that added the problem of a litter of pigs. But somebody found a box and put the pigs into that and then heaved the box into a wagon. The mother of the pigs was treated to a rest. Then she ambled slowly along with the cattle and sheep as she had been doing. The pigs were lifted out for lunch with her noon and night.

"Some male members of the incoming folks had already been to Gilmer for the purpose of scouting and trying to choose wisely, before bringing their families, a home or home site such as they could afford. Such looking ahead was done usually as soon as crops were laid by in North Carolina. These lookouts also sighted and marked out routes for later travelers.

"Parties Gilmer bound usually set out during the mild weather of autumn. In the clan containing my folks were 27 persons jammed into seven conestoga wagons. These vehicles had no brakes. Axles were greased with tar run from heart pine. When tired beasts and people stopped for the night by the side of the road, the men took their axes into the surrounding forests and cut wood for a big fire, piling by extra fuel for all-night fires.

"Everybody slept on pallets on the ground as near the fire as safety allowed. Bathing pools were spring branches and larger woodland streams. Even if it rained, there was no room in the wagons with their covers, crowded as these already were with household plunder and other necessaries for the homes they expected to establish. The women and girls, who wore shawls for coats, cooked on the camp fires.

"Everybody breakfasted at daybreak around the fire. Everyone, before resuming travel, was at liberty to take a swallow of whiskey. In the main, these people kept along old routes that had been followed before, though these might become so dim and doubtful, rough and narrow, the loads on the wagons would have to be taken off and toted ahead.

"Among the multiplied obstacles to the travelers were huge boulders, logs, steep mountain sides, impossible cliffs that had to be skirted somehow, not to

*Related by Ben Sitten, who remembered the traditions. Mr. Sitten died August 22, 1958.

mention stumps, bogs, mudholes and dizzy grades. The emigrants coasted slowly down bluffs with the felloes of their wagons wrapped round and round with beaten hickory withes. Good safe spring water was seldom far.

"Conrad Lowe rode a bay stallion, behind him Patsy, his wife, a baby in her arms. Later Lowe swapped the horse for 160 acres of land in Ridgeway district. On this same tract my mother lived until her death in 1936 at the age of 96."

Folk Life, Religion, Thought for the Future

"All these early arrivals lived in log houses. They had no lamps. Yet many a time they worked till midnight by the light of the fireplace. When their light began to go down, they tossed on another pine knot or rich sliver. They sheared sheep spring and fall. All women carded wool, spun and wove it into blankets and wearing apparel. The men made most of the shoes for their families. Calves and sheep were penned nightly against wolves that began to howl as dusk approached. Thwarted that way, the wolves might still grab a chicken.

"Here's a glimpse at sights common to my ancestors: deer wandering in droves through the woods—as many yours as you liked; wild pigeons blackening the sky as they flew over; wild geese descending on areas like Carter's Quarters in such numbers as to gobble up whole crops of grain.

"When such settlers came in, they much needed such bounties of nature. For they could bring but little more food than they and their beasts might require to reach Georgia. But once arrived they began killing game and raising corn, potatoes, beans, pumpkins, melons and other crops already known to them. For food self-supplied was all they would have.

"As soon as time gave opportunity the newcomers provided themselves with apples, peaches, cherries, plums, quinces, occasional pears. Sour kraut and pickled beans and more beans dried in the pod were foods esteemed in winter. Whole grain hominy was liked too. Even in my time we still dried snap beans by running threads through them to make leather britches. Beef and mutton were often dried, Indian style, to preserve them.

"These pioneers sometimes paid their taxes by picking up wild chestnuts. They could buy green coffee for six cents a pound. Dalton was our main market, as it had been theirs. A dozen of their ox-drawn wagons might be seen creeping along the rough roads in a train.

"This first little pioneer band also brought along an already implanted interest in religion, expressed their own way. Walking seven miles to a place of worship was a common occurrence. And, by going there, they found about the only opportunities they had to meet people socially. Most of their singing was done in these meeting houses, simple as the life and homes of the people themselves. Singers gave volume to their voices and used the old Christian Harmony hymnal when they used any book at all. The pastor, standing in the pulpit, lined out songs.

"Tears, mourning for sins as well as shouts of joy mingled in these meetings. Among the lustiest shouters was an old aunt of mine. She leaped about like a jumping spider and could shout all over a meeting house in a minute.

"When some drunk raced his horse wildly through the church yard during services, the preacher's patience and character were tried. But this type did not thwart him in his purpose. He went right on preaching.

"Better living conditions, with people of their energy, naturally picked up. The settlers cleared more fields and raised crops greater both in quantity and variety, though the fine virgin timber that stood ready to be cut down long had

no sale. Our roads, worst when we needed them most, did not improve very fast till the last 30 years. However, the pioneers laid out most of the main ones and were first to make them passable.

"A decided boost came to their section with establishment of mail service between Ellijay and Carter's Quarters, where steamboat navigation nearly to Gilmer preceded a railroad through. And when the railroad finally did come it missed them 10 miles or more.

"They were still pushing and struggling hopefully for improvements, when the shadow of war came creeping, like a slow-motion eclipse across their land. Joe Sitten, my grandfather, got orders to appear at Dalton for service in the Confederate army. As he left home he said simply to his wife, 'Take care of yourself, Nellie.' That was his farewell. For he never came back. He was killed early in the war in Tennessee.

"I was born the last day of 1872, when the bitter period following the War between the States was at a low ebb. In 1878 I entered school at old Liberty Methodist meeting house in my native district. School terms lasted two and one-half months. Among my early teachers were Miss Mary Tankersley and Miss Mary Kirby.

"I grew up where my ancestors had settled in Gilmer County. In my early manhood, I married Miss Lockey Woodward, who lived with me until her death, July 18, 1954. A modern road is at last reaching the old home community of my ancestors. As to the future? I am expecting that to be better than any period of the past."

Location, Political Changes, Orienting Ourselves

Gilmer County, 84½ degrees west longitude by 34½ degrees north latitude, was first a part of that vast and vaguely defined Spanish area once known as Florida. In 1663 and 1665 it went with Georgia as part of the tract granted to the lords proprietors of Carolina. It was in the original grant to Oglethorpe. But, while it was being "granted," the area fell within French claims and ambitions, and may be said to have become English in 1775.

Such counties as Gilmer came into existence at the close of the Revolution. Around 1786 South Carolina, having claimed three years before* a narrow strip (which included much of northern Gilmer) along the northern border of Georgia, ceded its claim to the Federal Government. Then our national government in turn gave the territory to Georgia when, in 1802, the state relinquished its claims upon the states of Alabama and Mississippi.

Gilmer's mean annual temperature is around 54 degrees, close to what Ellsworth Huntington calls ideally stimulating and energizing. The racial heritage of its inhabitants can certainly be called good. The County, shaped somewhat like a miniature Georgia, is situated in the central part of extreme northern Georgia within a single county of North Carolina and Tennessee. It once extended to both states.

At present it is bounded on the north by Fannin county, on the east by Fannin and Dawson; south by Pickens; west by Murray and Gordon. The eastern boundary of Gilmer is the dividing line between "northwestern" and "northeastern" uppermost Georgia.

The County, created December 3, 1832, from original Cherokee county, and,

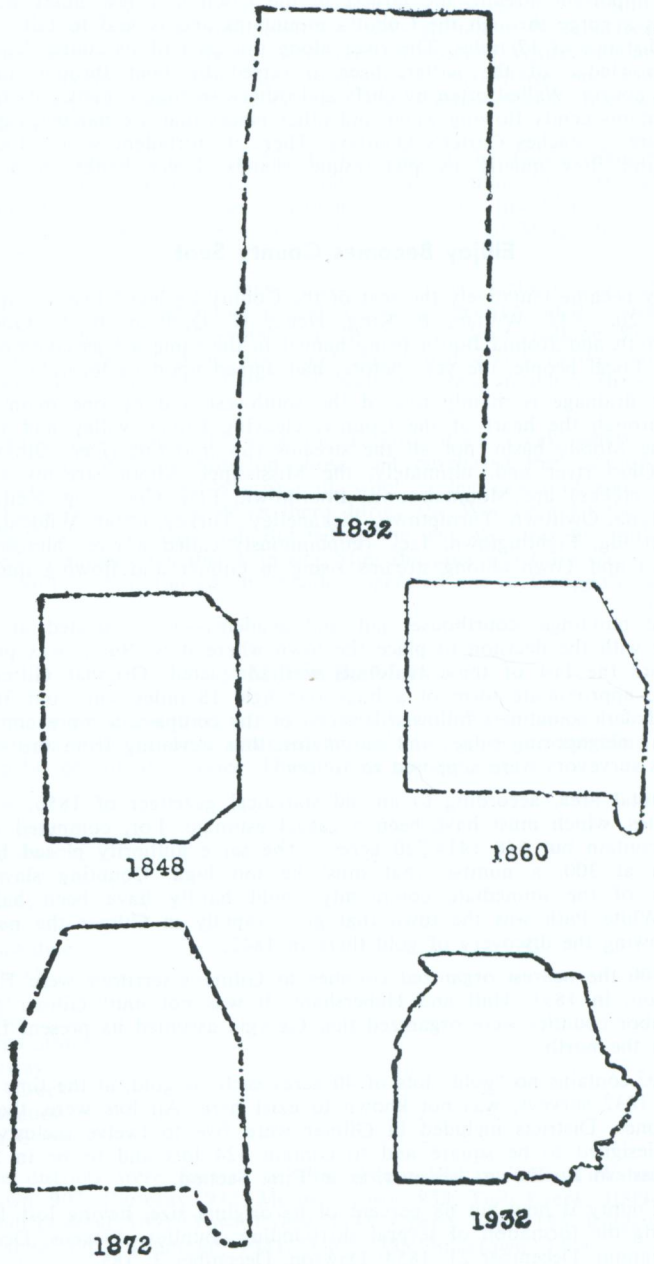
*This strip began at the big westward bend of the Tugalo river and extended westward to the Mississippi. It was 35 miles wide. Gilmer evolved, locally, from wild Indian lands to parts of Gwinnett and Hall counties, then part of Cherokee county, and finally to old Gilmer.

GILMER IN GEORGIA

in 1856, a portion of Union county, was named for George R. Gilmer in recognition of his insistence that Cherokees be removed from this region, as was done in 1838. Gilmer, Fannin and Pickens counties constituted the 41st senatorial district until recent years.

Ellijay, the county site, is on the west bank of the Ellijay river on ground originally chosen for its being safely above high waters. The community begins but a fraction of a mile north of the confluence of the Ellijay and Cartecay rivers, which streams together form the Coosawattee* river.

*Probably meaning "old Creek place." The river was once known as Ellijay much farther down the stream.



GILMER AT DIFFERENT DATES
Drawn from Old Maps.

This important stream, the largest in the County, a few miles west and south, cuts a gorge through the Cohutta mountains and is said to fall 574 feet within a distance of 17 miles. The river along this part of its course has never, to the knowledge of the writer, been traversed by boat through its wild, impetuous course. Walled often by cliffs and otherwise rugged banks, its tortuous course contains gently flowing water and other places that are narrow, rapid and noisy before it reaches Carter's Quarters. There its turbulent waters lose their violence and flow quietly by picturesque islands, lower banks in a rolling region.

Ellijay Becomes County Seat

Ellijay became tentatively the seat of the County by legislative act approved December 20, 1834, William P. King, Henry K. Quillian, B. L. Goodman, Nathan Smith and Joshua Bourn being named in the same act as commissioners of Ellijay. Local people, the year before, had agreed upon its location.

While drainage is mainly toward the southwest and by one main stream flowing through the heart of the County, cleaving Ellijay valley and forming part of the Mobile basin, not all the streams run into this river. Others flow into the Ohio river and, ultimately, the Mississippi. Minor streams (usually designated creeks) are Mountaintown, Boardtown, Flat, Cherrylog, Kell, Tails, Town, Talona, Owltown, Turniptown, Tickanetley, Turkey, Clear, Wildcat, Rock, Brier, with Big, Fightingtown, Jack (euphoniously called a river almost to its headspring) and Town among streams rising in Gilmer and flowing into other counties.

Public buildings—courthouse, jail and academy—were located at Ellijay practically with the decision to place the town where it is. But it was probably 1835 before the last of these buildings was completed. Original Gilmer was laid in the approximate form of a huge rectangle 18 miles wide and 36 long. But the borders sometimes followed, instead of the compass, a more convenient route along neighboring ridges and mountains, thus deviating from the straight, strict sides surveyors were supposed to follow.

The total area, according to an old statistical gazetteer of 1850, was 793 square miles, which must have been a casual estimate. For, computed ideally, it would contain but 648 (414,720 acres). The same authority placed Ellijay's population at 300, a number that must be too high. Counting slaves, the population of the immediate community could hardly have been half that number. White Path was the town that grew rapidly in Gilmer the next few years following the discovery of gold there in 1842.

In 1800 the nearest organized counties to Gilmer's territory were Franklin and Jackson; in 1831, Hall and Habersham. It was not until Gilmer and its nine neighbor counties were organized that Georgia assumed its present familiar outline on the north.

Gilmer contains no "gold" lots of 40 acres each, as gold, at the time of the 1831 and 1832 surveys, was not known to exist here. All lots were, therefore, 160-acre ones. Districts included in Gilmer were five to twelve inclusive, and all were designed to be square and to contain 324 lots and to be in Second Section. Eastern Bucktown, however, is in First Section.

The County is now but 68 percent of its original size, having lost 133,120 acres during the formation of several surrounding counties—Pickens, December 5, 1854; Fannin, December 21, 1854; Dawson, December 3, 1857.

The line between Gilmer and Murray was better defined December 29, 1838. An act approved March 1, 1856, added to Gilmer all of Union county south of

the Blue Ridge and south of the Fannin county line. In 1860 Fannin received an additional land lot. Six additional lots were shifted to Pickens December 13, 1858, thus placing in another county most of modern Whitestone and its rich dolomitic deposits. However, the community's post office and much of its whitestone deposits are still in Gilmer. The Gilmer-Pickens line was further changed in 1863.

An act approved October 27, 1870, changed the Gilmer-Fannin line "to commence at Bushyhead Gap and from thence running on a straight line to the residence of William Burke, and thence on a direct line to the Baptist church on Cherry Log creek, on the main road from Ellijay to Morganton, and thence east to original line."*

In its loss of territory to Pickens county, Gilmer yielded some of its most historical sites, centers of religious and cultural pioneering, such as old Talloney mission, the old James Simmons inn, the site of Fort Talking Rock, Love's Station (now called Talking Rock and established about 1810), Sanderstown, old Talking Rock, later called Blaine as well as quite a stretch of the old Federal Road.

Pickens also gained the spot on Talking Rock creek where stood the Atherton mills. William Atherton chose and purchased the location in 1847. His manufactory combined a grist mill, wool carder, saw mill and cotton gin. Henry Pettit said he drove down there during the War between the States and took wheat, also, to be ground. But before the war was over the mill had been destroyed by raiders. On the same site, after the area was transferred to Pickens county, William Atherton and his brother operated one of Georgia's early cotton mills.

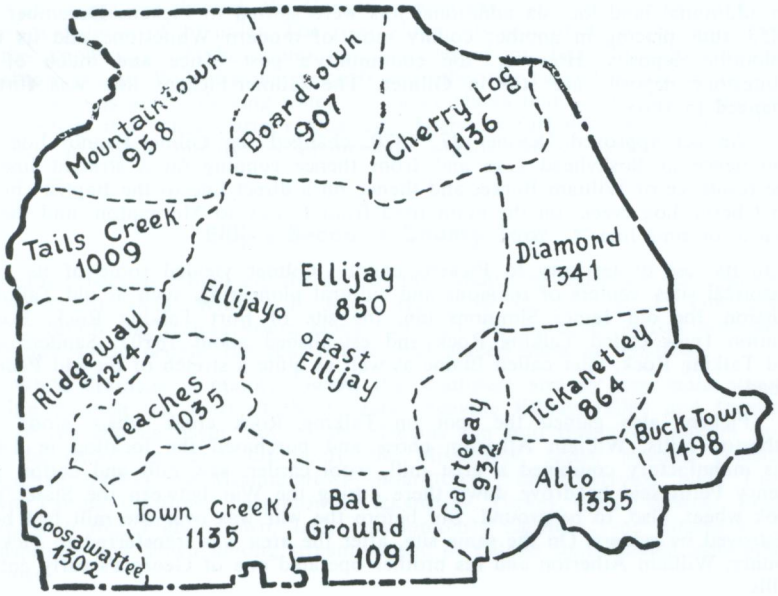
Militia Districts

Gilmer's present 440 square miles is divided into minor political divisions called militia districts, once designed to embrace a certain specified roster of men capable of military service. These, 15 in number, are:

Alto	1355
Ball Ground	1091
Boardtown	907
Bucktown	1498
Cartecay	932
Cherry Log	1136
Coosawattee	1302
Diamond	1341
Ellijay	850
Leaches	1035
Mountaintown	958
Ridgeway	1274
Tails Creek	1009
Tickanetley	894
Town Creek	1135

The districts were formed in this order: Ellijay, 850; Tickanetley, 894; Boardtown, 907; Cartecay, 932; Mountaintown, 958; Tails Creek, 1009; Leaches, 1035; Ball Ground, 1091; Town Creek, 1135; Cherry Log, 1136; Ridgeway, 1274; Coosawattee, 1302; Diamond, 1341; Alto, 1355; Bucktown, 1498.

*The Gilmer-Fannin line passes, as marked on the highway, considerably north of the present Cherry Log meeting house.



GILMER'S FIFTEEN MILITIA DISTRICTS

Militia Districts

Boardtown, Ellijay, Mountaintown, Cartecay, Coosawattee and perhaps other districts bear the names they had as communities in Indian days. The first district organized was Ellijay, then Tickanetley and Boardtown. The oldest district has the smallest number; the youngest, the largest.

The original idea of forming districts according to population has been abandoned for convenience in holding justice court, voting and other interests common to the district. Heavy shifts in land ownership and use, along with changed roads and habits of the people, have so reduced the population of a few districts that it is far different from what it was many years ago.

People once settled where they found tillable land, good hunting, fishing and the like. Now they crowd toward our best roads, giving the impression the County is very much larger in population than it was a few years ago.

As school districts, due to consolidation, have been abolished the militia districts find themselves more in need of community houses. Population centers also have need of club, or community, houses. Some of the districts and centers have already loyally met this need, thus serving purposes the pioneers had in mind along with other important, more modern uses not anticipated by earlier generations. But the County had to organize itself and hold an election and create an inferior court before it had authority to act upon petitions from the respective areas to be organized, from time to time, into militia districts.

Prehistoric, First Known Inhabitants

In addition to stone arrow heads, spear heads, discoidals, celts, pestles, pots of baked clay and stone axes, Gilmer could once show striking relics of primitive man on the north side of Bear Den mountain in extreme northern Boardtown.

Carved boulders, stone trays and rounded but unfinished heads of outcrop rock were among examples there. It is fortunate for this record that the author trudged through the snow up the mountain, late in 1929, and took a number of pictures of these rocks.

STRIAE ON ROCKS ON NORTH SIDE OF BEAR DEN MOUNTAIN
Drawn by Author from Memory.

It was cloudy as well as snowy that day, but by melting snow in an old borrowed tin bucket and pouring hot water on the rocks we procured the pictures, some of which are offered on these pages. Since we made our pictures someone has gone in with a bulldozer and done a devastating job of destroying these relics.

Dr. W. S. McCallie, state geologist at the time, went with the author to see these artifacts and attested, at the time, to their genuineness and significance. The carving was done on stones, all of similar character, that had some of the nature of soapstone. They varied in size from a small tray to a huge boulder weighing thousands of pounds.

CARVED ROCKS ON BEAR DEN MOUNTAIN

A baffling sight, right among the other relics, was the presence of parallel grooves scored on flat bedrock and running up and down the mountain. The marked rocks barely showed above ground. These scratches were found all

about among the carved rocks in such a way that suggested they might have an origin similar to the carvings.

But did they? Primitive man as well as white pioneer must have accepted them as made by man. But note they are found only on flat rocks; they are always parallel; they run downhill. No doubt the primitive folk believed these markings were not only made by human hands but that they also had some special significance, were "signs" of something important.

They are striae, really, and made by nature. They were scored by hard pieces of rock caught up by a great glacier-like overburden of ice and snow during ages gone by. They are the same as what scientists call "marks of glaciation." But, as the marks go down into the mountain, at one point, they lose their shape, become distorted and crumpled by natural forces known as metamorphosis. This is disclosed by the diggings of prospectors, who apparently followed the grooves when they turned down out of sight. The marks scratched on the rocks must be enormously old and were evidently, buried under the ground until exposed by comparatively recent erosion.

These relics were well investigated by early whites, one of whom is remembered merely as Taylor. Another is said to have been Carey Padgett. A number of persons have dug among them, especially where those scratches on the rocks turn down into the ground.

Seekers for "Indian treasure" and "Spanish mines" have done worse than wasting their time. They have destroyed or carried away many of the smaller relics, such as trays and bowls, that were really of antiquarian value.

These mementoes of man's occupation here, prior to ours, are right out in a vast wilderness which has never been cleared and, without a guide, difficult to find. They should have been left on the spot or taken to a museum when possible. The striae, though apparently destroyed or covered up, must remain of course where they are.

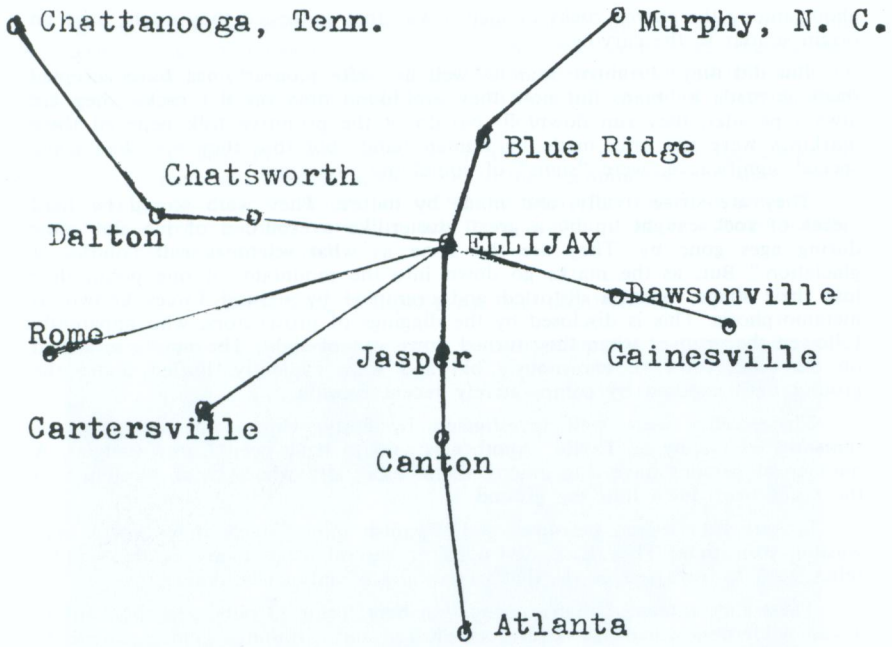
Relics have been picked up in Tails Creeks district, from the same field, that belong to both the old stone and the new ages. Ball Ground district has many relics of glazed pottery, all in one small compass. Nobody knows their origin. But people have speculated that the earliest whites who settled around Blaine and those who established a mission among the Indians, in the same neighborhood, nearly 140 years ago, were responsible for these efforts to make pottery.

First White People

A map in "Conquest of Florida," a volume by Theodore Irving, shows DeSoto slashing from east to west through Gilmer, keeping north of the Coosawattee river and apparently headed for Carter's Quarters. "Narrative of the Career of Hernando DeSoto," another historical work, volume 2, by Edward Gaylor Bourne, carries a frontispiece map that favors a similar route for the explorer. Daniel Marshall Andrews, in a written work, "DeSoto's Route," has the explorer, in leaving this area, keeping south of the Coosawattee. Approach to Carter's Quarters was possible, by ancient trails, from either side of the river.

Moyano, a Spaniard also, in 1566, visited the region; and came two other times, his mission in each case being to establish and nurture Catholic missions in the vicinity of Carter's Quarters, where Spaniards usually made their headquarters.

The first county jail, built of logs the same summer (1833) the first courthouse was erected, occupied approximately the present site of Charles Johnson's super-store and Ray & Johnson's IH Service on the west side of Dalton street, Ellijay.



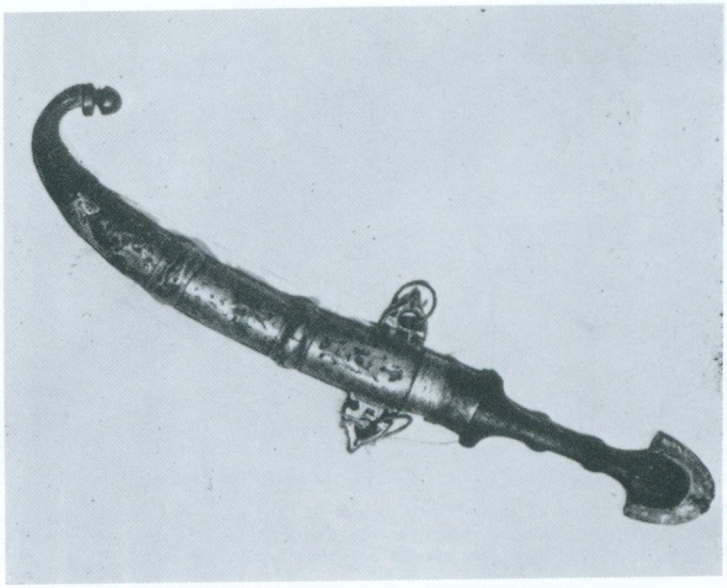
Gilmer's Connection with Neighbors, by Modern Roads, Represents Some of the Trails Taken by Rugged Explorers, Warriors, Wanderers and Immigrants of Earlier Centuries.

This rather barbaric structure, as shown in the illustration, had outside steps going up the front to a landing outside and then in to the cages within and a trap door near the center of the floor. This opened to a dungeon below, with solid walls all round. Evidently the designers of this jail did not expect to be locked up in it. The first two prisoners incarcerated in it were Indians. A man or two with good strong backs, by industrious digging below or hard lifting could reportedly get out of it, as happened a few times. A little outside assistance usually helped, of course.

But the County fathers early figured ahead on these possibilities. Stout blacksmiths were available and iron for conversion into cages was procurable. These stout cages were ranged around the walls of the upstairs area. Felons were locked in these or strung along a main chain that extended all the way around the four walls up at their tops. Some of this quaint old welded iron work is in our new jail.

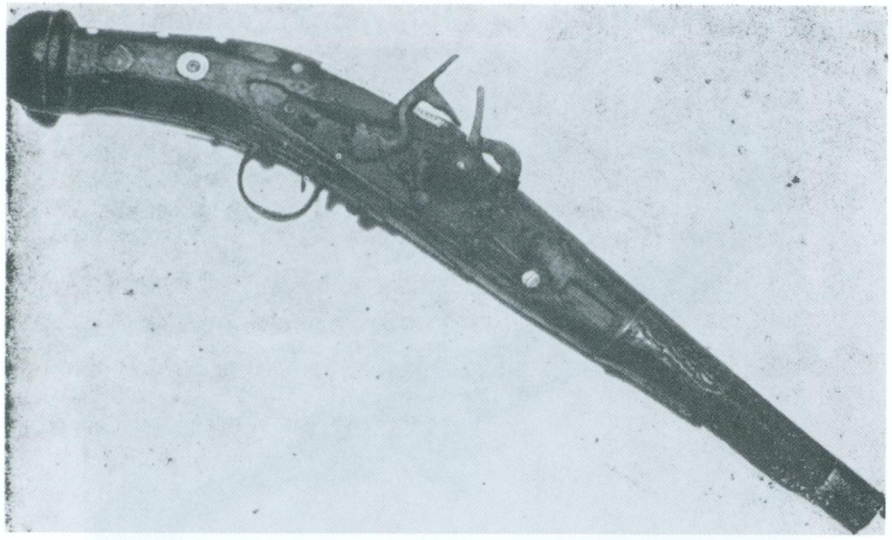
From this primitive structure one man rode to his death by hanging up in Pump Spring holler. The next jail, made of brick, and abandoned as a prison in recent years, stood till recently razed across Dalton street from the site of the first jail Gilmer had. This second jail was built in 1892 when A. M. Johnson was ordinary.

A

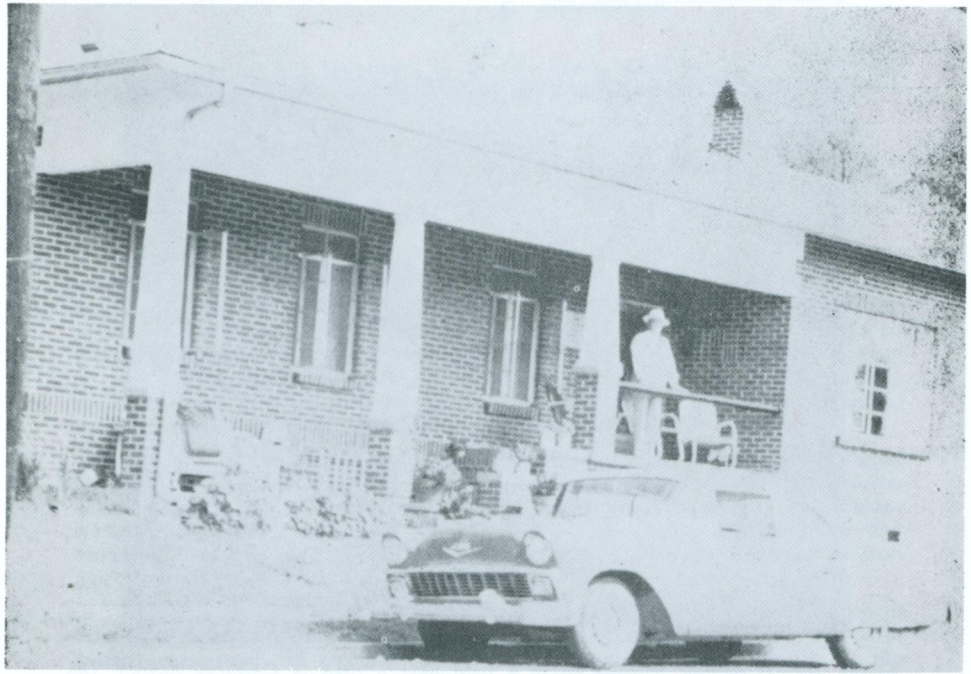


B

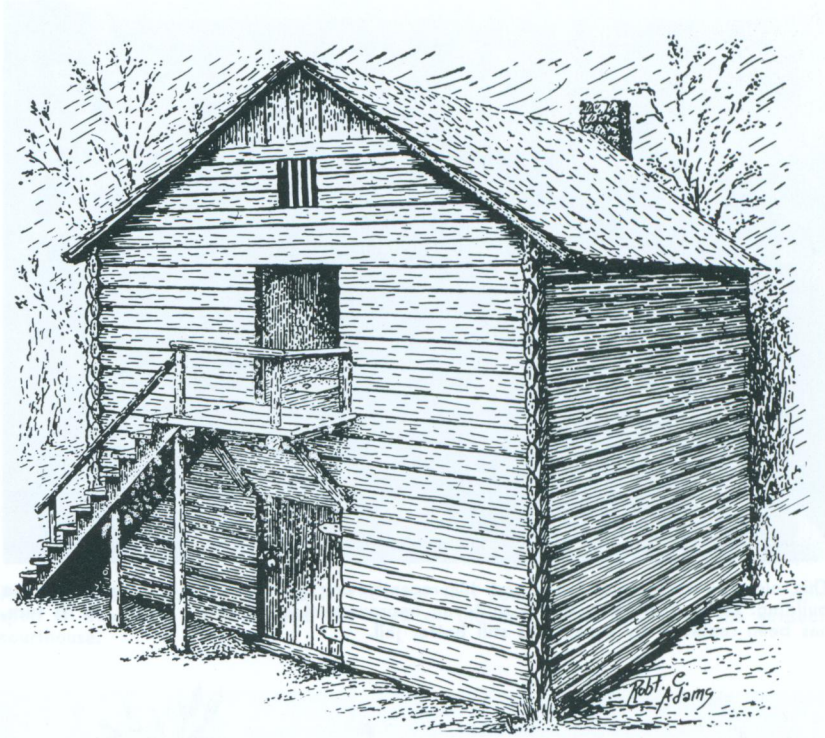
A—An ancient dagger, plowed up in a field near a road in Cartecay district. The discovery was purely by accident in 1953. B—The dagger removed from its curved scabbard.



An ancient gun plowed up in Cartecay district in 1953 when the dagger, shown on the preceding page, was found. It was near the dagger and seems to have been left or forgotten at the same time. This was an arquebus type of weapon.



Gilmer's new and modern prison, completed in 1955, was first occupied by Sheriff Homer Hefner, November 14, of that year.



Gilmer's First Jail, built during the summer of 1833. This drawing by Robert C. Adams is a restoration from descriptions furnished by people who remembered the old structure, which was razed about 1892.

Courthouses

The first Gilmer courthouse, hurriedly built in the summer of 1833, stood for nearly 20 years at the center of the public square at Ellijay. It had a little assembly room with the judge's stand at the far end as one entered it.

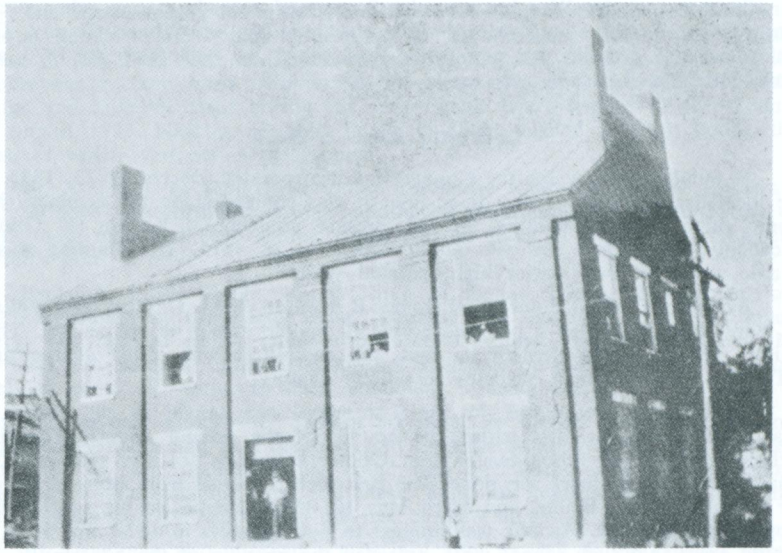
It was a struggle to get this house ready before August 29, 1833, the time set for the first session of Gilmer's Circuit Court. This was Thursday after the fourth Monday of the month.

To quote B. B. Quillian, who was on hand when it all happened: "The house was to consist of round logs and the floor of split timber (puncheons), as at that time there was no sawmill in the entire country. The cracks were not even lined. At each side of the main building were side rooms, likewise of puncheons, or hewn slabs. Floors were dirt (inside the side rooms) and the front of each was lined up with (rived) boards."

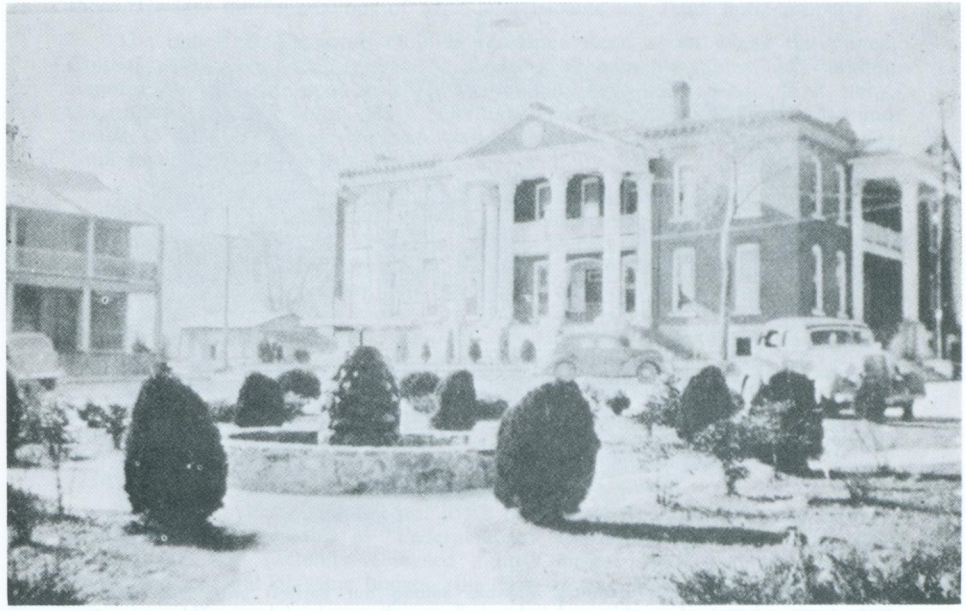
This structure, becoming outmoded, was replaced in 1854 by the old red-brick, two-storied house known to many contemporaries, as it stood till 1934—80 years. It was erected by Cowan Brothers, contractors of Cleveland, Tennessee. It came to look quaint to the newer generations. But it stood the

This old two-story brick jail stood till recently on Dalton street by the Telephone building. Erected in 1892, it was quite an improvement on the first jail. It, in its turn, has been replaced by a new and still better jail.

First County Courthouse, built in August, 1833, of round logs. A restoration by the Author and Robert C. Adams based on a word description by contemporaries and others acquainted with the structure. It stood in the center of the public square in Ellijay.



This old brick structure replaced in 1854 our first courthouse and stood on the same spot. It was razed in 1934, and the work of the courthouse moved to the present courthouse.



Gilmer's present courthouse, occupied first in 1934, is an adaptation of the old Hyatt Hotel, built in the early years of this century.

terrific stress of the War between the States and served, among other useful purposes, to preserve our records from the founding of Gilmer County. Our chief loss has been in our newspaper files, which go back only to 1873 and have deteriorated considerably in the last few years.

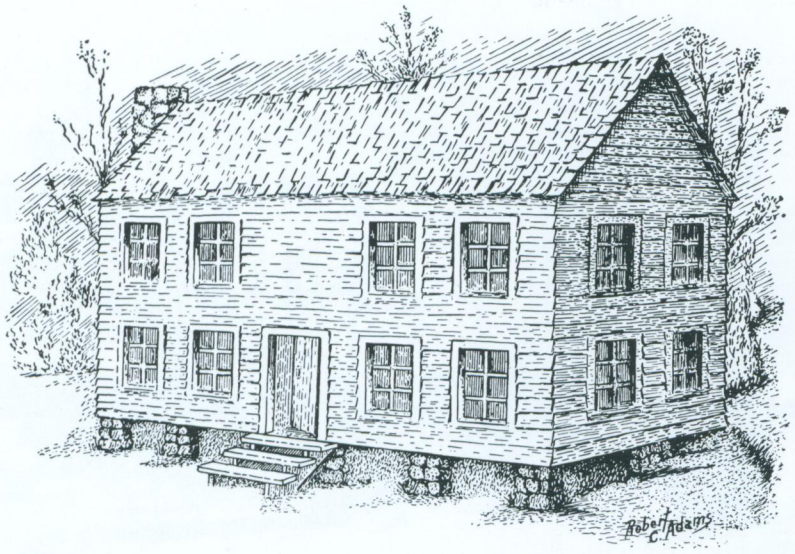
Learning Adds a Gain

A public academy for the County was incorporated December 23, 1833, to be located at Ellijay. A year or so later it was completed on the cemetery hill some three blocks southwest of the present courthouse. Known as Gilmer Academy, its original cost was an appropriation of $815. The building was a frame structure, two stories high, painted white.

Benjamin Griffith, James Kell, James B. Henson, Clem Quillian and William P. King were appointed a body corporate to handle affairs of the school. They might now be called trustees; in fact, the committee was called at the time "Trustees of the Gilmer Academy in Gilmer County."

While the academy was not the first school ever taught in old Gilmer, it was undoubtedly the first within the bounds of the present county. The first official evidence of school-teaching in Gilmer county is for the year 1834, a year before the academy was done. The first such report of work done at Ellijay or at Carmel, near Blaine, and dated May 12, 1836, certifies to the sum of $42 applied to the work. As $61 was applied to poor schools in 1834 and 1835, it would seem that such school work preceded the opening of the academy.

GILMER ACADEMY



Erected about 1835, this building, notable among our earliest structures, was for many years a house of worship and lodge hall as well as school house. This restoration is by Robert C. Adams, assisted by the Author, and is based upon carefully noted word descriptions by persons who remembered the structure.

The first dwelling in immediate Ellijay was that of Clemonds Quillian. It was a "double cabin," which stood alone in the wilderness. He moved into the house in July 1833. One of the cabins was floored with slabs, and, between the cabins was a room lined with boards that was used as a bedroom. Here the Judge and Solicitor slept during the first circuit court session of the County in August 1833. Nearby, his son, H. K. Quillian, erected a board house, the posts of which were set in the ground.

W. P. and I. C. King built a log storehouse where the Ellijay Hardware store is now—the northwest corner building by the square. During the spring of 1833 these men had been selling goods east of town at a point about where Jarrett's hotel is now.

Benjamin L. Goodman, lawyer, man of means, bought the corner now (1959) occupied by the Ellijay Drug Company. Mr. Goodman, a man of much energy and marked ability, came from South Carolina. Known as what in the old days was called a nullifier, he was apt in debate on national policy and was likely to come off, with the ablest contender, bearing the laurels.

He procured a mill site* five or six miles up on the Cartecay river and employed Absalom and Sam Stephens and Levi Pierce as workmen. He supplied them with as many hands as they could well use. Within a surprisingly short time they had a sawmill going full blast. This, for years after, was the only source of lumber for Ellijay and the rest of the County.

Mr. Goodman also installed a grist mill, this, as well as the sawmill, being powered by the river. There was nowhere else such a mill except for a little corn mill up on the Cox Mill creek. This was owned and operated by Harry Downing, an Indian.

Mr. Goodman, having added a kitchen to his dwelling premises, moved into those. He laid the foundations of what later became the Teem hotel property.

The important Clemonds Quillian residence stood about where the Times-Courier office is now.** It was "in front of Goodman's cabins." A building standing on the same spot in 1879 was said to have used, for its first story, the original Quillian house. H. K. Quillian sold his adjacent board house and bought a lot about where the new bank is now located. Some have Clemonds Quillian early living on this spot.

Ellijay as well as the outlying areas grew slowly for a while. Indians still pretty well filled the land, 600 families of them having been estimated to have been still living within the County's bounds. During the fall of 1833 and the winter succeeding some increase of the white population was noted by contemporaries. Voters, late that year, have been reckoned at 30. Adiel Sherwood observed in 1837, "the population of the county is about 1300, voters 175." Whether he counted Indians, who still probably outnumbered whites, is not known. By Indian removal, voters were reckoned at 300.

The old Federal Road, which runs about six miles across the southwestern corner of Gilmer, was already in existence years before white settlers flocked in after the early surveys. By it lived a man named Sanders, from New England, who was probably the first white man to settle in the County. He came about 1750.

A historical marker, placed just south of Talking Rock creek by the Ellijay-Atlanta highway cites this as "Federal Road. Cisca-St. Augustine Trail." The road turning west (actually it turned a little farther south, and may still be dimly seen in front of some houses—the first on the right going south) at this

*Site of present Stegall mill.
**1959.

point and continuing down Talking Rock creek to the site of Coosawattee. Old Town is a portion of the old Federal Road opened through the Cherokee nation in 1804 by Georgia and Tennessee. It follows the course of a trail shown on a map of 1684 as connecting the ancient Indian town of Cisca, in the Tennessee Valley, with St. Augustine in Spanish Florida. It became the principal United States mail and stage coach road along which pioneers settled in the Cherokee country.

Near this marker also was established Talloney Mission, an institution founded by white New England people for the instruction of Cherokees in the civilized arts and sciences and the Christian religion. We suspend further discussion of the progress of the County in general for consideration of the mission.

CHAPTER TWO

Talloney and other Missions and Communities

Gilmer County and its environs had numerous inhabitants before it became a white man's land. The countryside generally was occupied, some communities being thickly enough settled to rank as villages. These firstcomers were of course nearly all aboriginal Indians. But an important few were white and mixed-bloods.

One of the larger settlements was Cartecay, an Indian word said to have been derived from a term meaning bread valley. The word over a long stretch of time has been spelt different ways. In 1785 an Indian, whose name was Nanotey, attended a council meeting in which James Carey interpreted. Nanotey came from Cartecay, then spelled Kautokey. Other spellings have been Corteca and Carticary. Again it was Cortikeyeh, and is described as located on "Clapboard Creek." This inclines us to believe the Indian village stood closer to water and extensive farm lands than does the present hamlet sometimes known as Cartecay or "Cross Road," perhaps to keep from confusing it with the whole large and important district in which it stands. In 1799 it is mentioned on the distribution rolls and then it was Kautika.

Cartecay is also mentioned in a description of the boundary of the Indian district of Coosawattee. This was October 20, 1820. The spelling then was Cartikee, the community being described as a village. No one knows how old it was when white men surveyed the country.

While Mountaintown was important enough to have, during at least the later years of red occupation, considerable recognition and its own recognized chief, it is doubtful if there ever was a settlement any more village-like than whites developed since in the Connesauga (once spelt Cunasagee and otherwise, meaning Sugar Town) of a generation ago.

On October 4, 1823, Thomas Bassil and "an evangelist," who would appear from the original record to have been Moody Hall, left Taloney (Carmel). heading toward Brainerd, near Chattanooga, by way of Ellijay—presumably.

For they spent that night with the chief of Mountaintown, not mentioned by name. The chief seems to have been friendly to the missionaries. He and his family were much interested in the mission school already established at Taloney.

Early next morning there was a meeting of the Indians of Mountaintown with the white missionaries, which goes to prove Mountaintown heard preaching long before churches were established there.

Among the first to arrive at this meeting were Mary Mason, Betsy Mayhew, and John, father of Ann Porter. Along with the family of John, Mary and Betsy sat near the preacher and joined in the singing.

The songs were Cherokee hymns. The record also states "Mary and Betsy wish to attend the school at Taloney." The visitors found the Indian home and family neat, the father serious and anxious to learn. He had visited Taloney because he was a serious inquirer on the subject of religion. Red people were then thickly settled in the mountains, and ready to hear evangelists. But few of the Indians knew English.

William F. Cotter passed through Mountaintown shortly before Indian removal. He spent the night with a Cherokee family. He ate boiled eggs and sweet potatoes for both supper and breakfast. For a bed, he accommodated himself to deer skins spread on the floor of the cabin. His pillow was hard. Early next morning he rode away horseback. He soon became so nauseated with the recollection of his food he had to stop and retch it up.

Talona

Talona is another of Gilmer's oldest communities. Not only was the County's oldest post office named Talloney (Taloney—finally Talona), but the age of the community goes back to an unknown antiquity. It was also known as Sanderstown.

The ancient village, however, stood several miles south of modern Talona at a point near the eastern edge of Blaine. A group of graves, on the east side of the modern highway, marks the approximate spot where old Ta-Lo-Ney stood. A marker should be placed at this location, which was an important community and stop on the old Federal Road.

But between this point and on up Talona creek into Gilmer county to a point several miles north of Whitestone may have been known as Talloney community, as it is today. White pioneers have handed down the report that considerable cleared land was found by the first white men along the creek, especially from Whitestone north. No doubt the adjacent mountains and hills and forests were important and convenient sources of game.

At the time of Indian removal, a Cherokee woman, already greying from age, who lived on the John Goble place at the northern edge of Whitestone, told white people she could not remember when Talona community was very different from what it was then. Talona was reported in the Federal census of 1830.

Love's

Love's was also a stop on the Federal road about three miles northeast of Talloney. It stood where Talking Rock is now, and took its name from a white man named Love. This man is known to have kept an inn, or tavern, at this point, many years before Gilmer County was established.

John Bell, who married a daughter of Judge John ("Jack") Martin, once kept inns, known as "houses of entertainment," at both Love's and Talloney.

All these communities, including Fort Talking Rock, which stood hard by the old James Simmons place, two miles northwest of Jasper, were in old Gilmer. So was Fightingtown, another Indian village on Fightingtown Creek, about seven miles south of Cowanneh, the Indian name of Ducktown.

Turniptown, four miles north of Ellijay, was another important community of the days of the first white comers. Ed Greer says that Ausborn Holt found Chief White Path controlling a tremendous tract in this section and northward to Cherry Log station, westward to Ellijay River and eastward into the mountains to include Aaron Mountain.

Mr. Greer stated it as a family tradition that Mr. Holt obtained his original privilege of settling on Turniptown Creek from Chief White Path; further, that, when Holt settled, the valley formed by this stream and its tributaries was thickly settled by Indians.

Brown, in his "Old Frontiers," says Turniptown was the home of the important chief, Little Turkey. But, with Indian names as with the white man's, one must be on his guard for duplications.

One who has lived in both New England and northern Georgia is impressed with the similarity of the two sections in race, a mingling, in the character of both, of stoicism, honor in keeping promises, patient energy, force, industry and thrift. The native enunciation is as much "northern" as it is middle Georgia.

While the brogue of the native speech came principally from North Carolina and farther north and east, New England had its effect. For New England people spoke the first English heard here.

These people were the first teachers. Their orators traveled widely and spoke often to the people. They and the Moravians, who did not travel much to evangelize, spread ideas of white custom and civilization ahead of all others. It was inevitable that early enunciation should be affected. For some reason the word "town" early became a part of the name of a number of our militia districts. As this is the name of the smallest political division in New England, an influence here might be suspected. But no direct evidence of this has been found by the writer.

Ellijay

Ellijay is the most important community of modern Gilmer, as it was in old Gilmer. It is at least hundreds of years old as a neighborhood. It must have already been well known and long established when the first settlement was made at Savannah.* In an effort to clarify the name, some would have it mean "place of green things." Among other attempts is the usual casual statement made about the streets of the city that it was named after an Indian chief. The county's site, its largest, most populous militia district—the one in which the community of Ellijay is located—and an important river all bear the name.

Originally it was spelt Elija or Ellija, and various other ways, with a slight accent (as at present) on the last syllable. Some pioneer whites had it meaning "many waters." But our investigation leads us to believe the term Ellijay has evolved from some expression rather remote from its present form, which may not have any meaning at all.

We infer only that Ellijay* is an anglicized form of an Indian word or phrase that presumably sounded somewhat like the word as now spelled.

Ellijay, topographically and logically, was a gathering place for Indians of a large contiguous area, and was doubtless named before even the Sanders clan settled near Blaine. Seldom shown on ancient maps it never appears in its modern form of spelling. It was site of a town house and seat of justice, as well as polling place.**

Trails, even in prehistoric days, converged at this point. Ellijay has been from ancient times, a trading center of some importance, and its absence from old maps does not argue its nonexistence. It was a camping community and place of temporary assembly, with but scattered habitations—almost entirely in woods—when the first white man began to settle here about 1832, six years before the Indians left. But at that time Ellijay was probably in a decline.

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*The earliest known mention of Ellijay is in South Carolina Records, Vol. 5, p 142, where in 1755, it is called Elljoy. Bartram, traveling through 1773-78, spelled it Allagae; Brown, 531, speaks of it as Elatsay yi, "earth green there."

**Places in Tennessee and North Carolina have been called Ellijay. One authority says the place was named after the river by which it stands. Bartram mentions "Ellijay the Little."

For both Ellijay and Carter's Quarters, an important point in this section for hundreds of years, were attacked and laid waste by John Sevier and his raiders in the autumn of 1792. This was a sort of mop-up of the Revolution. When the Treaty of Hopewell was signed with the Cherokees in 1785, Young Terrapin (Tuekaseh) was present from Allejoy (Ellijay). A granary of the Middle Cherokees at this time, it was loyal to Chief Little Turkey. A Grand Council of Cherokees, held at Estanaula June 26, 1792, to July 1 of the same year was attended by Charley of Alljoy (still another variant of Ellijay). In 1793, Ellijay was again raided and burned by white men.

On January 8, 1793, Leonard D. Shaw, out from Knoxville, Tennessee, came by Ellijay. He was horseback, having borrowed a mount from Governor Blount of Tennessee. Shaw dispatched an Indian "to bring my horse and some of my things that I left at Allejoy."

Dreadful Water represented Ellijay at a colorful council meeting held at Tellico Blockhouse November 7, 1794, to end wars with the Cherokees. The word Ellijay appears first with modern spelling in 1799. Wrong spelling, however, persisted, for in 1820, the word was Elleyjoytown!

In 1822 Ellijay was in the district (or state) of Coosawattee. For it had been resolved, on October 20, 1820, by the Indian National Committee and

ELLIJAY WOMAN'S CLUBHOUSE

Council, "That the Cherokee Nation be organized and laid off in Districts." Ellijay was embraced as defined in the History of the Cherokee Indians, pp 44, 45, in Coosawattee district.

And this district was bounded as follows: "Beginning at Widow Fool's ferry on the Oostanallah river, where the Alabama Road crosses it, along said wagon road eastwardly leading toward Etowah town to a large creek above Thomas Pettit's plantation, near to the Sixes, and said creek, northeastward, to its source; thence a straight course to the head of Talloney creek, up which the Federal road leads, thence a straight course to the Red Bank creek, near Cartikee village; thence a straight course to the head source of Potatoe Mine (Vine?) Creek; thence a straight course to the most southern head source of Cannasawagee river; thence a northwestern course to the river opposite the mouth of Sugar Creek."

In the Grand Council of 1822 Major Ridge was speaker, and William Hicks, brother of Chief Charles R. Hicks, and Terrapin Head and Rising Fawn represented Coosawattee district. George Sanders, who probably lived near Blaine, was district judge. James Foster was district marshall.

In 1825 the village of Ellijay (still called by some authorities Elechaye) was in the second election precinct of Coosawattee district. On November 24, 1825, an election was held at Ellijay. George Saunders (or Sanders), reported in 1818 as an Indian chief, and Robert Sanders managed the election. James Sanders was clerk. Still another Sanders named Thomas was also a chief. All these prominent people seem to have been citizens of Gilmer; all were probably part white, and spoke English, picked up along the old Federal Road, from the pioneer Sanders family and at Tal-lo-ney mission school.

William Hardin, in a letter from the County (March 29, 1832), made the rather startling declaration, "Ellijay has fallen," meaning in less sensational terms, perhaps, that Ellijay as an Indian community had surrendered or acceded to the demands of the state of Georgia and the United States. He states, moreover, "Ellijay is one of the largest villages in the upper part of the (Cherokee) nation, where opposition (to white rule) has been strongest. Four of the most numerous families (holding reserves) have enrolled in the Georgia Guards and have relinquished to the President all land in cultivation except 40 acres attached to said village."

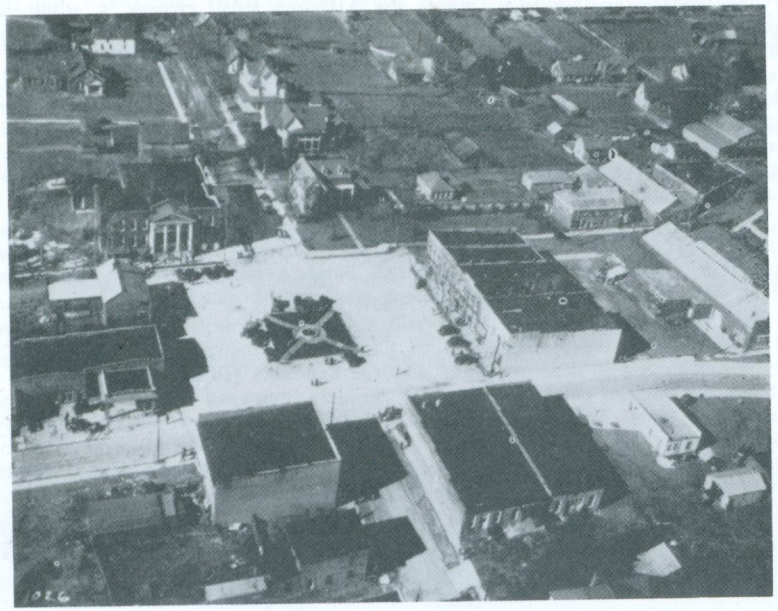
Ellijay was reported in the Federal census of 1830.

In the spring of 1833, as reported by B. B. Quillian, an eye-witness to conditions around Ellijay, the community was sparsely settled. Ralph Smith lived about a block west of the present courthouse, on Gilmer street, at a point approximately where, within recent years, Mrs. Lina Briant has erected a small red-brick dwelling. Harry Downing, a Cherokee, who operated a grist mill on the Cox Mill creek a little above the point where the Chatsworth highway, in going out, crosses that stream, lived on the west side of Dalton street at a point near the residence of Mrs. M. L. Cox of far more recent years. Later still this area became a part of the Logan Land development.

Ellijay became, legally, the seat of Gilmer County December 20, 1834, two years after the County was organized.

In 1837 Adiel Sherwood, the friend of accurate historic knowledge and dependable information, made long journeys over Georgia on horseback to make contacts. We believe he visited Ellijay that year. He recorded: "Ellijay has 20 dwellings, three stores, one lawyer, and no doctor." A year later he mentions it as "the most central place of the Indian population."

An "old timer" has depicted Ellijay as it appeared in 1842. "Ben Johnson and Gallatin Gudger had a store west of the courthouse. Old J. P. Alexander (called Jack) lived east of the same building. Bill Banks had a hotel south of



ELLIJAY, AERIAL VIEW, 1936

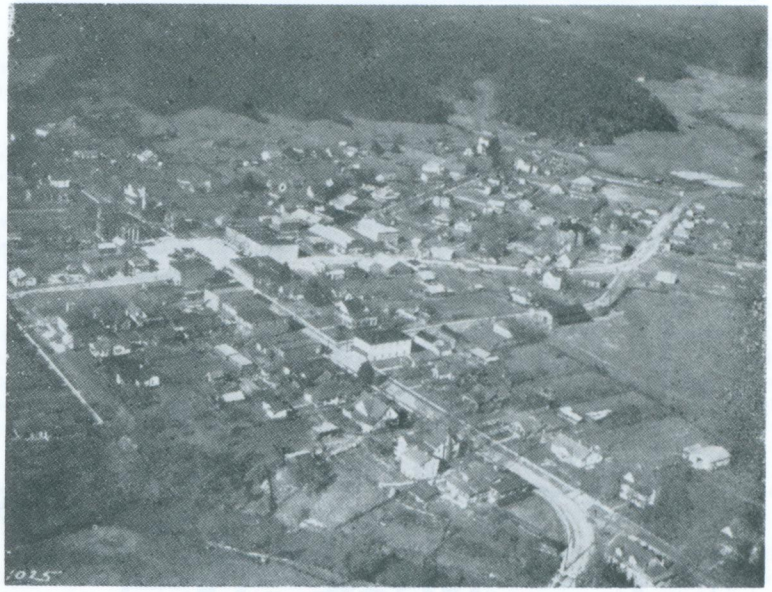
This picture is used by permission of Clyde Butler of Cleveland, Ohio

the square. Jack Alexander, Sam Jones and Sam Tate owned all the niggers in there at that time.

"The Ellingtons, the Densmores, the Quillians, the Addingtons all lived on the Cartecay river and had fine farms. Sam Jones and Joe Garren owned lands on Flat Mountain. Farther north lived the Kells, the Deals, the Clines, the Wakefields; then up Turniptown creek were Caleb Connally, Osborn Holt; on past Holt's lived Joe Slate; next, the Pinsons—Bartley, Tiddy—then the gold mines and White Path Creek."

"I have caught horneyheads all up and down that creek, meanwhile stumbling over thousands of unseen gold."

A WIDER VIEW OF ELLIJAY FROM THE AIR
Taken in 1936



This View of Ellijay is used by Permission of Clyde Butler, Cleveland, Orio

Carmel Mission

Carmel, or Talloney, second mission to the Indians in Georgia, was our first center of civilization. It was an ABCFM* institution, and was the third mission among the Cherokees, Spring Place (1801) being first and Brainerd (1816) in Tennessee, second.

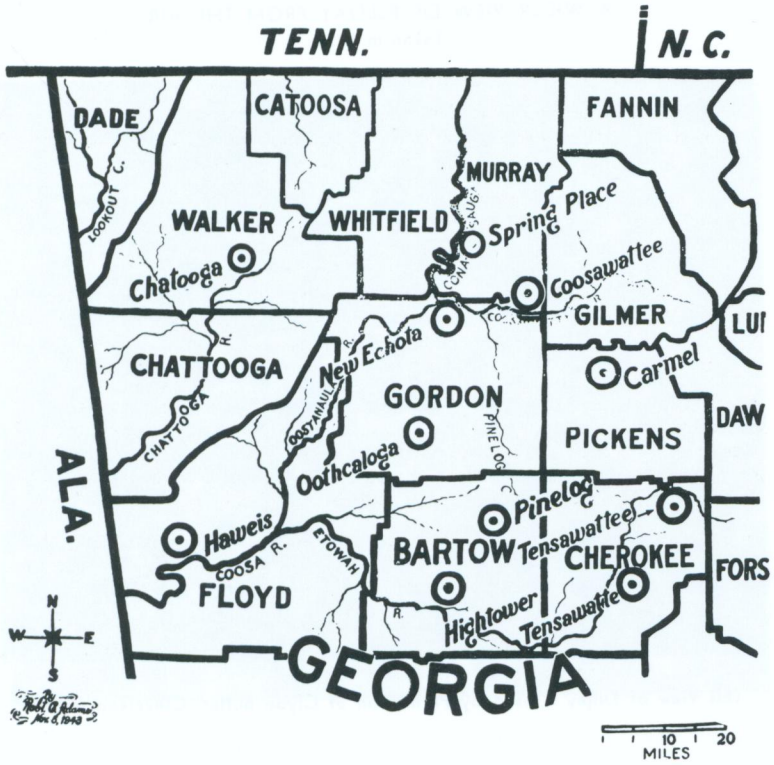
It was at first known as Talloney or Taloney (finally Talona). It was located in old Gilmer, and was established by Rev. Moody Hall** November 2, 1819. One authority says Hall was already at Taloney and teaching school October 17, 1819.

About where Whitestone is now stood an ancient village, also known as Taloney. But a newer settlement, favored by better access to the Federal Road and otherwise, began developing two miles southwest of Talking Rock in 1819.

By association in thought and for the purpose of approximate location, the scattered folk called it Talloney. This was merely an English pronunciation, for when a post office was established there May 17, 1820, with Moody Hall postmaster, it was called Ta-Lo-Ney.

*American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

**Born at Cornish, New Hampshire, December 1, 1789, he labored at Brainerd, Tennessee, till May 9, 1820, when he began a school at Taloney.



CARMEL AND OTHER MISSIONS, important white and Cherokee sponsored centers among the Indians, 1819-39

To have two places but five (by ancient count) miles apart with the same name was confusing. With the establishment of the post office in the lower community, this confusion increased. So upper Talloney retained its old name, and survives in the Talona of today. There is a creek of the name also, and it is probable the stream bore the name before there was any village called Talloney.

Lower Talloney became Carmel, the change occurring January 7, 1824. At this time Daniel Sabin Butrick was misionary. The next year Mr. Butrick was missionary and Moody Hall teacher.* The post office, by the new name, continued without interruption with Moody Hall as postmaster, Mr. Hall serving in this capacity till May 12, 1826. At that time Isaac Proctor was appointed postmaster in his place. Mr. Proctor held the postmastership till the office was discontinued February 26, 1831.

*New York Observer, January 22, 1825.

In Gilmer County history, lower Talloney (or Carmel) has foremost distinction. It was the county's first post office, church (Presbyterian) and school. It offered the first hospital and library service. Dr. Elizur Butler, in his connection with the work of the mission, was our first physician.

Doubtless Carmel missionaries were the first persons to reach modern Gilmer with the gospel message and to make any serious and sustained effort to teach its primitive inhabitants the English language and civilized ways of life.

The Carmel mission community was first settled by white people prior to 1769. The first settler known to history was a man named Sanders, who probably married a Cherokee wife, thus becoming, by this act, a Cherokee. Sanders had five sons, said to have been ignorant and barbarous and, at first, vigorously opposed to the establishment of a mission in their midst. But the Sanders boys were gradually won to the new teachings and ways of conduct inculcated by the mission folk.

Sanders became an early honored name at old Talloney and, in fact, the district of Coosawattee, when that was established. Twenty-one members of the Sanders clan finally entered and championed the Presbyterian church, established as a phase of Talloney's several activities in April 1823, with six Cherokees and mission household members as charter members. The church began with a total membership of 21. In 1824 the church had 24 members.

John Sanders (Indian name Tsa-nih) attended Cornwall Mission school in Connecticut 1823-24. He removed west about 1837, and was killed in the turmoil of Civil War days. He doubtless got his initial training at Carmel.

Oct. 1, 1826, "a great increase of knowledge" was noted regarding the church, which had 31 members. Combining with Hightower mission, it was employing at its own expense a "Cherokee brother" to go as their missionary to the "dark towns north of us." That took in Gilmer.

This zealous agent carried portions of the scriptures, hymn books and other aids to his work—in manuscript form. These he scattered as he went. He also taught from house to house where people, oftentimes, had never before heard the gospel.

Isaac Proctor was missionary in May 1828. Writing of the preceding Sabbath, he stated, "We had a solemn and interesting meeting. The congregation was large. Three full Cherokees were baptized. They live about 25 miles from us in a small town very much secluded. Some of our members and Mr. Butrick have visited them. These men appeared better than any candidates (all things considered) I have ever seen. They are very anxious to have some parts of the scripture, or any Cherokee tracts."

Mr. Proctor specifically requested translations of Matthew for these people. "The Bible is here preferred to the newspaper," he commented upon their tastes in reading.

John Thompson stated Aug. 8, 1829, "during last year native members in the church decreased by two. "Membership total at present is 29, three of these being non-Indian. Some attending the church walk six and seven miles to worship. A greater attention to worship is noted. Seven to 20 attend day services, after which inquirers come forward."

A temperance society had been formed, the people agreeing to use liquors only as medicine, "nor is it otherwise to be bought, sold or kept in the house." Fourteen signed the constitution of the society—the first such society ever formed in Gilmer. Laws were being promptly executed.

The Carmel mission formally continued, employing ministers, mechanics, farmers, teachers, a happy combination of civilizing agencies, till 1836—though some sort of activity continued doubtless till 1839.

Situated 60 miles southeast of Brainerd, its mother station, it was on a site, since 1853, in Pickens county, now a cultivated field 12 miles south of Ellijay and two miles northwest of Talking Rock. Perhaps both from purpose and for convenience, the mission was located off the old Federal Road half a mile or less. The spot is about a fifth of a mile south of Talking Rock creek, and may be easily reached by turning off the main Ellijay-Atlanta highway just south of the bridge across the creek and following the Blaine road a few hundred feet.

Look north and down—a restful, peaceful, somber scene greets the eye. The observer looks upon historic ground, once a beehive of industry, thrift, consecration and a devoutness well and strictly ordered. A steep bank now overlooks the fields and gardens once cultivated by the dutiful directors of the enterprise, who scorning caste systems, plunged in with heart and hand to whatever task the moment demanded and showed, by example as well as by often repeated precept, their young white and Indian charges what to do.

A lone ash tree, gnarled and branching, stands sentinel over the old spring, still flowing, from which the mission youngsters and households dipped water. Graves of Indians who were buried near the mission (most likely at their own request) are unmarked, plowed under.

Moody Hall and his family did not settle at Carmel till May 1820. He started Talloney school May 9 of that year, according to R. S. Walker. Chapin says "the principal men of the village and vicinity requested him to open the school. About 20 entered school the first week. The number soon increased to 50, the average being about 30." "Most of the pupils are eager in the pursuit of useful knowledge, show proficiency, and cheerfully submit to regulations," it was also said.

The tireless Mr. Hall met a small group every Sunday. Scholars were required to attend, and they were catechised in the presence of the Sabbath congregation.

While the health of Mr. and Mrs. Hall was reported as precarious, they soon mention four acres of ground cleared, three of these being in corn. They found grazing for mission livestock in the contiguous woods.

The Christmas of 1819 every man in the mission neighborhood got drunk. But the Halls had the tact, courage and stout-heartedness to do something about so gross and crying a condition. Next Christmas Mr. Hall called a meeting at the school house. More than 100 Cherokees were present, also many Africans.* He had 30 Indians as his guests at Christmas supper. The only disorderly person that Christmas was a white man. No actual converts to the Christian faith, however, up to that time, had been credited to Carmel.

Moody Hall was still in charge January 1, 1822.

"Before noon on the first day of May (1822)," writes Jeremiah Evarts, Corresponding Secretary of the ABCFM, "I reached Talloney and found Mr. (Moody) Hall, Mr. (Henry) Parker and their families in comfortable circumstances. This station is 46 miles (northwest) from the Chattahoochee (river) and 62 from Brainerd on what is called the Federal Road. It is on a small river called Talking Rock creek, and five miles from the town of Taloney, which lies off the road in a northeasterly direction. I rested here until after breakfast on the 3rd, and then set out with Mr. Hall for Brainerd. The interven-

*The missionaries were very tolerant toward Negroes but Indian law forbade intermarriage with them.

ing time was spent in examining into the affairs of the station. I cannot enter into details here but would say in general that most gratifying evidences of the beneficial tendency and good effects of local schools was very apparent."

July 21, 1822, a jotting from the journal of Moody Hall reads, "A respectable number of the natives attended divine service (at Taloney). Mr. Chamberlin, being present, preached all day. In the afternoon, he addressed himself, through an interpreter, to those Cherokees who cannot understand the English language. The meetings were continued more than four hours; and the people stayed more than an hour longer for further instruction."

We quote further from his journal of August 18, Sunday. "Those concerning whom we have a hope, remained two hours after our public service desiring more particular instruction. Many questions were asked them, and in all their answers they discovered a humble dependence on the merits of Christ, and of him alone for salvation."

A further excerpt of Sept. 22, 1822: A brother of the Baptist denomination (likely Evan Jones) spent two nights with us. He appears much rejoiced to see the work of the Lord in this place.

About the last of Oct. 1822, Talloney received a visit from Humphrey Posey, "late Baptist missionary at the Valley towns." He was much surprised and gratified to see the great change which had taken place since his last visit there, about a year before.

On the first of Nov. 1822 there was present at an evening meeting an Indian who had visited Taloney before. He appeared to be considerably stirred with respect to his spiritual welfare. "He knelt during prayer," records Hall, "which I have known no adult natives to do at this place, till they had been brought to feel themselves to be sinners." On Nov. 8, two brothers, McKee and Israel Folsom (Indians doubtless) arrived at Taloney from the Foreign Mission school. Afterward Hall recorded, "They have left a very favorable impression on the minds of the people here respecting missionaries and their labors."

More from Hall's journal, Nov. 10, 1822. Sabbath. "This has been a truly interesting day. Our little congregation was composed of people from six different nations and tribes. At our evening service, more were present than could be accommodated with seats." Nov. 21, 1822. "Had occasion to punish one of my scholars, the son of a widow, who, I trust, is a pious woman. At noon he ran away. But as I was returning to the school after dinner, his uncle came with the truant. His uncle said it was the mother's opinion that I did not punish the boy enough. She wished me to deal with him as though he were my own. What different views the Gospel gives those who receive it, even with respect to family government! A few months ago this boy would have been pitied and excused by his mother and friends, to his injury; but now she apparently feels the force of the sacred injunction, Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying, Proverbs 19:18."

Further still. Nov. 24. Sabbath. Our meeting very well attended. Appointed, at the evening service, an after-meeting for inquirers. They filled the room. After singing and prayer, and a few remarks, leave was given for any to speak, who felt desirous to do so. Five Cherokees spoke in turn, in their own language, on the great subject of religion.

The faces of some were bathed in tears while they were speaking. One who had been a most violent opposer said, it is high time for us all to quit our bad ways. Our friend has been here (Taloney) a long while telling us how we ought to do. We have not minded him. We have seen him in distress and have not pitied him. We have viewed him as our enemy. But now we all know him to be our best friend. Should I see him again in trouble, I would give him a hundred

dollars in a moment, if that would relieve him. We have many children. What will become of them if they go on as we have done? I cannot help weeping now, that I have listened to wicked white men, and have not attended to religion before.

This man spoke fifteen or twenty minutes in this strain; and his looks, gestures, and voice all indicated that he felt what he had said.

Nov. 27 (1822). It is now more than six months since we opened a weekly evening meeting at our house on Wednesday and another on Friday, at Mr. Sanders' a mile hence.* We have also had extra meetings as circumstances seemed to require. Sometimes meetings have been held every evening in the week. No one stated meeting has yet been neglected. O how much a brother is needed to assist in, or take charge of these great and responsible labors!

Nov. 29 (1822). The converts (the first of whom had been reported the previous month) took up most of our time, while together, in conversing with one another in their own tongue. One of them, for the first time in public, led in prayer. A precious few here, who a short time since were far off from God, have been made nigh by the blood of Christ. O what everlasting praise is due to him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.

Mr. Hall acknowledges a letter from the Corresponding Secretary: I have read it to the beloved converts, and they seem pleased to learn that you and the dear people of God at the north think of them. They wish me to tell you that they believe they have too much happiness in religion to be willing to give it up for the foolish pleasures of the world; and that they can never be sufficiently thankful that a teacher has been sent to them.

On Dec. 20, 1822, a box the value of which was reckoned in English monetary units, from Salisbury, Vermont, was donated for the use of the Taloney school.

In Feb. 1823 the work at Taloney (it still went by its old name) was encouraging. A spirit of inquiry on the subject of religion was gaining. "Several were anxious for their salvation, and a few were indulging hopes, recently entertained, that they had been introduced into the spiritual kingdom of God's dear Son."

In April Moody Hall was still in charge. It was a risk to give out names of Indians interested in the Christian religion, as this might incite the hostility of the Cherokee nation toward the little struggling mission. By this time Moody Hall was becoming anxious for a church to be organized at Taloney, which, accordingly, was accomplished April 1823, as mentioned.

On Sept. 14, 1824, the church was admitted to Union Presbytery of Tennessee. A new tide of interest warranted the original affiliation, when six Cherokees were admitted into fellowship and with their households, 21 in number, received baptism. Numerous people were present upon this occasion from different parts of the nation. Great interest and good order prevailed. Five Cherokees at Talloney, all brothers, four of them being among those who were of the Sanders clan, joined the church at the time, wrote the Corresponding Secretary.

A serious concern for religion persisted into the early part of 1824. Before this time three more Cherokees and a woman, wife of an Indian, had also been "admitted to the privileges of the church, and several more give evidence of a saving change." By August, 44 natives, two white women (wives of natives) and a Negro woman had been received into Carmel church's fellowship. On

*Up on old Federal Road westward to the edge of present Blaine. An important statement for it helps locate the little community once known as Sanderstown.

Jan. 2, 1827, Dr. Elizur Butler writes "last Sabbath we had a communion service. Four Cherokees and two whites were admitted to church fellowship. We have nine Cherokees, who are consistently orderly, and three whites."

Establishments such as Carmel made the teaching of Christianity their chief purpose (Schwarz 114-115). They organized a church congregation. They enjoined staff members to mind their own business, inculcated sobriety; taught charges to be good and peaceful citizens; to cherish brotherly love. They maintained schools and embryonic medical, hospital, and library service. Their house, usually set far out in the wilderness, surrounded by savages, isolated, lonely was hospice alike to Indian, white mission worker on his solitary rounds, and stranger.

Inmates gardened, farmed, raised livestock and poultry and practiced various household and industrial arts, and required these of student charges. They laid down a pattern that seemingly died but really lives again in institutions like the Berry Schools. Their sailing had to be done on boats long outmoded. But their ideas, time has proved, were sound. With vision and practicality they developed little centers of civilization as near complete and self-sustaining as the founders could make them. All business was efficiently handled and records were strictly kept.

While Carmel was Presbyterian as a church, it fully and generously cooperated with Moravian and federated religious workers at Brainerd, Spring Place, Hightower, and elsewhere.

Buildings were simple—had to be. Usually, since no sawmills yet existed in the region, they were of hewed logs, riven-board roof, cut-out doors, and were seated with puncheon. Chimneys were nearly all built of sticks of wood and plastered with mud. Cracks were chinked.

Price Tatum, born in 1860, who once lived near Blaine, on Feb. 23, 1943, stated to the writer that his father, John Wylie Tatum, born in 1822, was assisting some men and boys in felling a tree across Talking Rock creek for a footlog. This was at a spot directly north of the mission and in sight of it, as the scene now presents itself. In falling, the tree accidently forcibly scraped the shoulder of young Tatum, producing severe shock, and at first diagnosed more serious at the mission, where he was taken. But given first aid and such treatment as the mission facilities permitted, he was soon on the road to complete recovery.

Price Tatum stated this was in 1839 (if one reckons his father as then 17), which would seem to help to confirm the complete extinction of this mission as having been deferred beyond 1836 to a date as late as 1839.*

By Oct. 1, 1820, Taloney's little start of buildings was reported to the United States Secretary of War as having a valuation of $800. Such reports helped to qualify Taloney for Federal aid for its school.

Oct. 1, 1821, four or five scholars were being boarded. Though attendance upon the school had somewhat declined, this situation was but temporary. Its schedule in general went nobly ahead in effectiveness. Public worship was conducted each Sabbath, many parents along with children attending. Brainerd and Carmel schools had a consolidated enrollment of 96, and an average attendance of 40 to 50.

Nov. 24, 1824, we hear that Carmel remains under direction of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and has already qualified for Federal aid for its educational work, "in conformity to an act of Congress of May 6, 1822."

*These dates are at least two years ahead of what they should be.

The school was reported, November 1826, as "prosperous," average attendance being 20. Four scholars were studying geography; nine learning to write English. Isaac Proctor was living at the mission and serving it.

In January 1827 Samuel A. Worcester was missionary; John C. Elsworth was teacher and superintendent of "secular concerns." John Vail was farmer.

Late in April 1827 Daniel Sabin Butrick, riding a horse, on his way to the Valleytowns, stopped at Carmel. He found Elizabeth Proctor alone at the school with her scholars. Mr. Butrick became interested in the situation at Carmel. He decided to stay over and lodge with the boys in their cabin. The sensitive Mr. Butrick questioned the propriety of staying around at all. Then he decided to leave. But his horse had run away. He tried to stay with a neighbor. No room there. He must protect the fair name of the girl, and so proposed marriage. Sister Proctor welcomed the solution. William Chamberlin performed the ceremony.*

At another time it appears that Ainsworth E. Blunt was farmer and mechanic; and Luke Fernal, mechanic. The wives of these two men probably assisted with the mission work. Miss Sophia Sawyer was teacher.

Among itinerant speakers and workers who came by Carmel to survey the work, cheer the staff, and encourage endeavors generally was Stephen Foreman. Taloney (no doubt the lower village) was reported in the Federal census of 1830, and is referred to in Sherwood's Gazetteer of 1837 as being 16 miles south (by an ancient trail down Wildcat creek and into old Talking Rock, now Blaine) of Ellijay on the Federal Road, and as "once a missionary station."

Price Tatum recalled not only the mission site, but the last buildings of the institution as these appeared as they were falling into decay and crumbling away around 1865. Only one of the mission buildings, it seems, was ever moved from their original location and thus preserved long enough to be known to younger generations. Folk of the community have always referred to the station as the "The Missionary." Newspapers of 70 and 80 years ago accepted the mission as something taken for granted by readers generally and referred to it in such a manner as to indicate its location in those days was common knowledge. It appears on old maps (see Walker, Frontis), but, by the younger generations, it had been completely forgotten until recently.

One of the sturdiest and largest of the original group of mission structures, reproduced herewith, having been moved half a mile eastward, was rebuilt near the William Kelley home, where it stood till 1918. The spring of that year it was razed. This was evidently a combined school and church downstairs. A rather narrow stairway led upstairs, where there was room enough for guests, mission families, and emergency. Other portions of the structure were probably devoted to a post office, first aid and hospitalization. In general terms, it was "administration building," except it was more than that in the modern sense. Dr. Elizur Butler was probably more than physician to the project.

Price Tatum states that after the building was moved he and his fellow laborers in grain harvest used to lug wheat by the hundreds of bushels up the stairs to be spread out on the floor to dry. In the same house Mr. Norman C. Low of Talking Rock, Ga., was born. It is to him we are indebted for the picture of the old house. He also assisted the author in the rediscovery of the mission site, Nov. 23, 1941.

When this old relic of Indian days and monument to the noblest endeavor of our early history was torn down and sawed into firewood, but a humble

*The Cherokee Nation, Marion L. Starkey, author, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, publishers, 1946, supply this incident.

CARMEL MISSION, Main Building

Stood 99 years—till 1918

structure resolved again to dust. But it deserved to be preserved, like the Lincoln cabin, as the heart of a splendid shrine.

Thus, through these vanguards of light and knowledge, the essentials of the white man's way of life, spread to our primitive people. Their early zeal for disseminating Christian teachings is illustrated by a report of Daniel S. Butrick, mentioned as a more or less itinerant worker attached to Carmel, to the effect that in 1823 he visited eight large villages where the gospel had never before been heard.

On Saturday, March 12, 1831, Charles H. Nelson and 25 of his Georgia Guards arrested Rev. Isaac Proctor at Carmel in an effort to extinguish such work among the Indians. The following June, Mr. Proctor, Daniel Sabin Butrick and John Thompson, all among moving spirits at Carmel, left Georgia.

Late in 1834, all the mission stations in Georgia, except Carmel, were abandoned. Mr. Butrick was still in charge, reporting the work there as "happy."*

Carmel struggled along until 1836. Some have it running till about 1839. During the last few years of its existence it was probably a state-financed school administered from Ellijay.

*Worship was in progress at the church when a total eclipse of the sun occurred Nov. 30, 1834.

Other Missions

Other missions existed in Georgia, these being: Two Moravian, Spring Place, Murray county, and Oothcaloga, Gordon county; Baptist, Coosawattee, Murray county, Tinsawattee, Cherokee county; ABCFM, Hightower, Bartow county; Haweis, Floyd county; New Echota, Gordon county; Methodist, Chatooga,* Walker county; Pine Log, Bartow county. Ross's Post Office, Walker county, was early a central rallying point for Methodists in evangelizing the Indians.

Valley Towns and Notle Baptist missions were both in Cherokee county, North Carolina. Expansion of their work resulted in the establishment of Tinsawattee and Coosawattee.

Missions in nearby Tennessee, in addition to Brainerd, included Candy Creek, Red Clay and Amohee, all in Bradley county, and Running Water in Marion.

Alabama had a number of old and important missions. One of these, a Methodist stronghold, was at the home of Richard Riley, a half-breed. The station came to be known as Riley's House. It was located near Creek Path, now Guntersville. Another mission known as Creek Path, was also located in that vicinity. Willstown was in the present Dekalb county near Fort Payne.

The work of several of these institutions was closely integrated with Georgia missions. Many of their workers served during the period of the Georgia missions, sometimes transferring to and from the respective fields.

*Now LaFayette.

CHAPTER THREE

Indians

Gilmer Indians, pretty well scattered over the county, farmed and gardened a little, tending only the choicest spots of ground. As a hunter and fisher, he showed discretion in conserving game and other wild life, better maintaining poise than has the white man since.

Indians, like white men, varied greatly in their stages of advancement in civilized arts and sciences and manner of living.

As a rule, Indians lived simply and cheaply. A small patch of corn, beans and potatoes was practically all the planned food supply most of them had, or seemed to want. For the rest of their living they had only what they could get by hunting and fishing. But, with it all, they managed to eke out an existence.

Most of them cultivated their patches with crude, primitive hoes. A few kept plow ponies, which they hitched to plowstocks by rawhide traces and other novel and nondescript makeshift ways.

Poverty was practically universal, though one authority says: "In 1825 the masses of the Cherokees lived in hewn log houses well floored, with chimneys. Wealthy and slave-owning Indians sometimes had two-storied houses built of the same material."

Very few had beds or bedsteads. Generally they slept on deer skins and blankets on the floors of their simple little cabins. The women did most of the household drudgery, burden-bearing and soil cultivating, while the men loitered about and hunted. The males seemed to feel the tasks performed by the submissive squaws as beneath themselves.*

Using a stone pestle, they beat their corn in a mortar till it was reduced to a coarse meal, of which they made a thick soup or mush called connehaney, relished everywhere. With this, a family would fill a large wooden bowl. Then all the individual members, spoons in their hands, gathered around and helped themselves. They seemed to enjoy this style of eating as much as any white family might relish a meal prepared and served the white man's way.

The white man found the Indians raising beans, pumpkins, peaches, apples, potatoes**, and other crops cultivated by their contemporary white neighbors. Some writers say the Indians also liked roasted grasshoppers. They were fond of chestnuts, too, and they knew the edible quality of a number of native wild plants not eaten by whites. The author recalls Cherokee women, with papooses on their backs prying into fence rows and corners and digging up wild herbs that we whites had not noted as good to eat.**

*The author, as a child of five, lived among the Cherokees of the West and recalls that their manner of life there corresponded to this statement.

**The Indians understood how to store and preserve, through the winter, sweet potatoes. The potatoes were kept dry and carefully wrapped with dry grass and other insulation suited to holes in the ground. During the last roundup of Indians in Gilmer, a white man, engaged in gathering them up, noted the grass in one of these "tater holes" move suspiciously. He discovered an Indian woman hiding beneath.

A white traveler in adjacent north Georgia came upon an Indian cabin. The squaw had prepared a generous bowl of the usual connehaney, the cooking of which had been done in a pot in the front yard. It was a muddy time. When the connehaney had somewhat cooled, dinner was announced, and the squaw proceeded toward the delectable bowl to bring it inside. A white guest was to share it. The children, out playing, came running. One, with his muddy bare feet, hit the connehaney right in the middle. The mother gave him a spank with a ladle. but everybody had connehaney.

The tribal designation, Cherokee, of Gilmer Indians was anciently spelled Cheerakee, from chee-ra, "fire," it has been said.

Long prior to white settlement in upper Georgia they had had a colorful and eventful history. They sided with the British during the Revolution. They were related to the Iroquoi branch of their race, while the Creeks came from the west, possibly Mexico. The Cherokees suffered from the contiguous pressure of white settlements in East Tennessee, South Carolina and Florida, and from warlike Indians such as the Creeks.

They probably did not see a white man till about 1540. Before Gilmer was settled, these Indians had been forced out of east Tennessee and had moved their tribal headquarters from there to New Echota in Gordon County. War had forced them back from South Carolina. They had been pushed against the Creeks on the south. The Creeks were in an ugly mood over this and questions of territory and boundaries. During the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the Cherokees took sides with their white neighbors, as elsewhere related.

In 1738 smallpox ravaged their settlement and killed half of them. The Creeks learned segregation as a method of treatment. But the Cherokees exposed the breasts of victims to the night dews, poured cold water on them, shook gourds of pebbles over them and sang repeated yo yo's to a doleful air, for their benefit. As a final resort, they plunged many of them in cold mountain rivers, with disastrous results. Others, having recovered and discovered their pock-marred faces in mirrors, committed suicide.

The "Cherokee" population had a tribal government. The people met at points like Mountaintown, Town Creek, Turniptown and other scattered places for counsel, sport and social purposes in general.

These red neighbors were never very hostile to the white men. Their hatred of enemy Indians, such as Creeks, far exceeded dislikes occasionally harbored toward individual whites. In fact, they aided the white man in making war on the Creeks, as stated elsewhere.

Indians usually traveled on foot. When on the trail, they always traveled single file. If twenty were in the company, there would be no double-filing. The woman carried the baggage and quite often a child strapped to her shoulders. "In the four years that I lived among them I do not remember ever having seen an Indian man carrying a child for his wife," remarks Bethel Quillian.

There were a few Indians whose conduct differed much from the general run of their race. They lived more after the manner of the white man. Many of them were "clever" and accommodating neighbors, punctual in there dealings. They seemed, in general, however, to have no particular standard of morals. They loved whiskey (introduced and plentifully supplied by the white man), fun and frolic. Under Christian admonition they might shed tears profusely. But, as with undeveloped whites, the effect was apt to cease when the hour's worship was over. The primitive red seemed to miss that point so essential in religion, namely, that being a doer of "the word" is a lot more important than being a hearer.

Cherokees also treated many ills, including snake bite, with native herbs. Fern snakeroot, wild horehound, wild plantain, St. Andrew's cross and a variety of other herbs and roots were said to have been used as an antidote against snake venom.

Marriage within the clan was said, also, to have been prohibited. Marriage vows were enforced by punishments. An amount of sanctity was attached to the relation. Divorce was discouraged, though permitted. Polygamy, while practiced, was confined largely to those exceptional individual men who could afford more than one wife.

Like most primitive races (and other people among the "advanced" nations), Indians were gamblers. A handsomely carved discoid stone used in gambling games is sometimes picked up about the County yet. These discoidals are among the finest and most perfectly sculptured artifacts handed down by primitive men. It has been said that an Indian might devote the better part of the leisure of a lifetime carving one.

The Indian had his ideas about a world to come, and no one is yet sure where he got these ideas—if we presume he borrowed them. It is commonly stated his future world was a place of earthly abundance, such as a land of plenty for the hunter. The Indian, either as mere convention or act of living faith, believed in a survival of the spirit. The placing of weapons, ornaments and possibly food and other practical things in graves and upon them testifies to this.

There was a belief in a supreme supernal being, who was regarded (to use a phrase most common) as the Great Spirit. He had moral austerity and punished wickedness and rewarded righteousness. He had his dwelling place not alone in the heavens but also in the souls of the pure of earth. Fire was reverenced. It came from the sun, which was also looked upon with supreme awe. Such an origin gave fire its sacred character.

But to credit the red man with any elaborate or profound (except with gifted individuals) ideas along religious lines would be to contradict the elemental psychology of just about all primitive peoples. Many members of the tribe (like whites and other so-called advanced races) had little thought beyond the routine of a simple life.

The language was musical, a quality which explains the survival of many of its names locally, such as Chattahoochee, Talona, and Amicalola. Undoubtedly the service of Sequoia, in his invention of the Cherokee syllabary and written language, was also a factor in fixing Cherokee terms so that they became "seeable" as well as "hearable." He created a language norm.

White communities have sometimes been named from Indian meeting and council places that were scattered about the County like present day polling places, examples being Owltown, Turniptown, Town Creek, Cartecay, Boardtown, Tickanetley, Mountaintown, Ball Ground, Talona, and Tails Creek.

The militia district called Tails Creek, for example, was named for a creek that flows through it. And the creek was probably so called because Indians named Tail lived along the stream. At the time of removal the following Indians named Tail lived in that vicinity:

Sallie, Amos, French, Lucy, Lizzie, Henry, Sallie, George, Lewis, Cusarnee, Nellie and Nancy. The name Sallie appears twice because the first listed was 18 years and the other three years only in age. All of these but three were full blood. Lizzie Tail was only three-quarters Indian. Henry and "little Sallie" were seven-eighths Cherokee.

Santa Luca (or Lucah), the name of a post office long maintained on Boardtown, was reportedly of Indian origin. Such places either retained their original Indian names or translations of these. Sometimes the name merely approximated the original one, as Talona for Tal-loe-ney.

The Indian left few striking testimonies to his occupation of the land. His greatest contribution to the world was in the development of plants like corn (maize), the white potato, the tomato, types of the bean. He also bequeathed us tobacco. We seem to have acquainted him with alcohol.

Bridges, acqueducts, large buildings, monuments—he was just getting round to a start on these at removal time. Some cleared land, trails and cabins,

together with his usually more or less scant household and farm and business equipment were transmitted. But he is being more and more credited with aiding the white man in resisting an enemy in a wilderness war.

In the rush of white immigration the ready cabins of the Cherokees were most helpful. Sometimes these Indian houses were expensive and luxurious for their day, being still in use. The present white population is probably five times as great as the Cherokee ever was.

The Indian and his antecedents left about our woods and fields arrow heads, stone axes, pounding and grinding stones, celts, or scrapers, a few stone gambling devices, some ornaments, and the like. Gilmer, not being a limestone region except in a limited way, was found lacking in caves. Though the most mountainous parts do have a few. But these do not seem to have yielded relics of primitive man in quantity, or if found they have not been properly preserved. Graves of Indians have sometimes, upon being accidentally dug into, yielded some fine artifacts.

The first inmates of the first Gilmer jail were Cherokees, Thomas McDaniel and his son, James. The two were charged, seemingly on conclusive grounds, of murdering a family in Cass, now Bartow, county by the name of Bowman, who, by inference were adjudged to be white. Having been arrested in Cass, they had been jailed there to await trial. But, in advance of the court session, they had escaped prison, making their way northward to the mountains.

Continuing their flight, they arrived at Turniptown, three miles northeast of Ellijay, where they fell in with a crowd of their choice and began drinking at a still house near the home of Isham C. King. Mr. King noted they were strangers.

Through some friendly Cherokees, he learned their names and ferreted out the additional fact that they had broken jail at Cassville. King promptly procured help and placed them under arrest. Although white men, at that time, were considerably scattered in the Turniptown area, Frank Smith, William Dale and a third neighbor (whose name escaped record) responded in the effort to handle the situation.

One of the escaped pair was near King's house, the other at the stillhouse some 200 yards away. The small group of whites arrested the man near the house and placed him in a wagon bed. Leaving Smith, armed with a stick, to stand guard over their captive, the rest of the whites went to the still to arrest the other Indian.

On their way, however, they met him, and he tried to escape. But one of the whites tore in after him and knocked him down with a stick. Having soon captured him, they turned to Smith, still on guard.

Some fifty Indians—most of them drunk—had surrounded the wagon bed where Smith held the Indian and demanded the release of the prisoner, voicing their demands in language of a heated, threatening character. But Smith stood them down notwithstanding the heavy odds in number against him. Mr. King's wife, who was a sister of B. B. Quillian, became alarmed.

Fearful of the outcome to such a dilemma, she mounted a horse and dashed into Ellijay. There she gave an account of the peril of the white men at Turniptown. Everyone was more or less aroused over the possible termination of the trouble. But somehow or other the men got out of the Indian mob and arrived in due time to put their prisoners in jail at Ellijay. To be sure the pair would not escape here as they had done at Cassville, B. B. Quillian had them put in irons that afternoon.

The alarm of Mrs. Isham King, back at Turniptown, regarding imminent Indian violence proved to be nearer smoke signals than fire. The strange Indians finally toned down their spirit of resistance to arrest there. The drunk Indians had wanted to resist Frank Smith, William Dale and the other white man.

However, the sober reds held their tipsy fellows back. A peculiar custom of the Cherokee Indians never for all to become intoxicated at the same time stood them as well as the whites in good stead on this occasion. There were always supposed to be enough sober Indians to control the inebriated ones.

The McDaniels were both desperate men. They weighed about 180 pounds each. B. B. Quillian immediately wrote the sheriff of Cass county, whose name was Col. Lewis Tumlin, about the capture of his escapees. But Tumlin, before the letter reached him, had the news of their arrest and imprisonment. He came in haste to Ellijay, bringing with him one or two white persons as guards. For it was not deemed wise for so few white men to pass through so many Indians, some of whom might feel outraged at the sight of Indian prisoners in the hands of white men. C. A. Ellington and several other white men went with the Cass county people and their prisoners below the mountains. The Indians were again placed in jail at Cassville. But during later days a dim report came back from that way that one of them broke jail again afterwards and made a final escape. The other was sentenced to the penitentiary and forgotten.

Indians in Gilmer county were generally quite peaceable, and very few of them were ever arrested for crime. Most of them loved whiskey, tobacco and red calico. An Indian's character suffered no discount for drunkenness—not even a woman's. Both old and young, men and women got drunk. Even Chief White Path became heavily intoxicated at times, but he suffered no loss of reputation by it. His people loved him and took care of him whether his affliction was due to whiskey or something else.

A dark stain upon the record of the white man's relation to the Indian was his demoralization of his red neighbor through strong drink. The greedy white man was ready enough to debauch and impoverish the "native" for gain, just as today the drink business is rapidly tilting toward the pockets of wolfish aliens and alienminded types who have no conscience about debauching our native people if it will help "business."

The Indians' pleas for liquors were insistent. But the Federal Government, mindful of the fact that the red man, under the influence of alcohol, was highly inflammatory, seems to have imposed a rule, for at least a part of the time, that no Indian should have whiskey unless afflicted some way.

This ruling brought many Indians to the Mathis grocery, as recalled by pioneer white men, in Tickanetley district, with an assortment of ills. Outside the saloon might be waiting a moccasined, buckskin accoutered line in more or less ludicrous poses from the effects of pain either real or staged. Toothache was a favorite alibi for a dram. Numerous Indians laid on the altar of sacrifice a perfectly sound tooth, reports say, for a coveted drink. A few desperate red men, indeed, appeared in a mood to sacrifice the larger portion of a set of teeth to the same end.

So that it was not altogether facetiousness that caused old folk to recall the practical need of a medical and dental service as an adjunct to a line of groceries. But as no such service was convenient, a few grocers turned amateur dentist to boom business. But the tradition of swapping teeth for drinks was far more serious than comical, revealing as it did pathetic bondage to the alcohol habit as well as not a little ability to simulate non-existent pain.

A number of Indians of prominence and leadership lived within the bounds of old Gilmer, several within the bounds of the modern county.

The best known of these was White Path (Cherokee, Nun-na-tsu-nega, also spelt Nunne-una-ga), once President of the National Council. He resided at the old Pinson place five miles north of Ellijay. The old White Path home still stands, almost west of the small highway bridge across White Path creek and in sight of the highway between Ellijay and Blue Ridge.

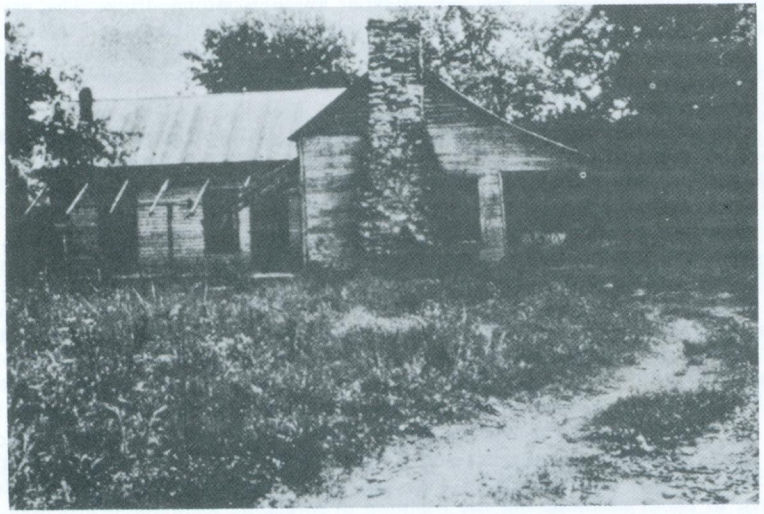
He lived here at the time of removal and must have done so for years prior to that. But he appears to have gone to Ellijay for important meetings. For we hear that, from the town house there, he vigorously opposed removal as early as 1816 to 1817. He appears to have lived there in 1828.

Turniptown Area

The region about here was anciently known as Turniptown (Indian, Ulunyi). The area over which White Path had special privileges and perhaps the equivalent of ownership was immensely larger than the present term implies—the valley of Turniptown creek.

The domain of the chieftain, according to tradition of pioneers, extended from Jarrett cut, two miles north of Ellijay, to the top of Aaron mountain; and from the Ellijay river, on the west, to the Charley Hice place, in sight of Cherry Log railroad station. Ausborn (or Osborn) Holt, pioneer, was said to have settled on Chief White Path's land, and to have purchased his land from the chief.

CHIEF WHITE PATH'S OLD HOME



This building is the last house constructed and occupied by Indians in the County. Now owned by Miss Edna Pinson, the house has been in the possession of her family since Indian days. It is still usually occupied by tenants. A room on the western side was added by the Pinsons after the removal of Chief White Path. This structure stands five miles north of Ellijay in sight of the paved road to Blue Ridge.

This man is memorialized to this day by White Path springs, a hotel, now destroyed, and a post office, now discontinued. The general name of the gold mines that began a few rods west of Chalybeate spring has always been White Path, and the entire region is still so designated.

Since, at the time of the Indian dance, elsewhere recounted, White Path was about 65, he must have been born near 1768. He was intelligent and dignified in face and bearing, and was described by those who saw him as a man who gave a strong and lasting impression of superiority in any group of his people. He was probably a fullblood.

Considerable speculation has arisen as to White Path's knowledge of English, which seems to have been slight. Though he appears to have written a letter to Thomas Manning and to have signed it. He could undoubtedly talk with whites so as to be understood.

On July 5, 1838, he signed the treaty of Red Clay. On the other hand it is established that, as one of the delegates to Washington, he signed with his mark the treaty of Dec. 26, 1837.

White Path was an American Patriot in that he helped the white man defeat the Creeks, whom the Cherokees hated. He served under Major Ridge in the battle of Horseshoe Bend on the Tallapoosa river in Alabama. White Path, on this campaign, a chronicler reminds us, engaged General Scott in conversation while the general stood beside his huge, gaunt white horse.

White Path and Chief John Ross swam the Tallapoosa river and got in behind the well entrenched and fortified Creeks and surprised them by taking their canoes, March 27, 1814. Gen. Jackson decorated him on the field with a medal. In this battle 18 Cherokees died and 36 were wounded. "Victory was possible by the intrepid conduct of the Cherokees."

White Path seems to have esteemed Gen. Jackson and liked (especially when tipsy) to relate his campaigns with Jackson. He often declared his firm personal devotion to his white leader. He pridefully exhibited a watch presented him, upon his last trip to Washington, by Gen. Jackson, who had become President. The chief appears to have sustained, to the last, a measure of friendship for whites.*

White Path was a pagan, apparently, to his death, though doubtless missionaries from Carmel visited him and he probably heard them and others explain Christianity. It is doubtful if he ever had more than a smattering of English or knew the syllabary of Sequoia.

White Path and John Ross, having gone to Washington on business pertaining to their tribe in 1834, found opportunity to renew acquaintance with Jackson. White Path visited Old Hickory at the White House, receiving a gift of a silver watch and a pledge—White Path said—"you shall remain in your ancient land as long as grass grows and water runs."

The pioneer William Ellington and many other whites knew White Path and liked him and regretted the ruthless manner in which he was removed from Gilmer.

It is easy to see that, having proved himself a patriot, White Path had ample reason to believe his wishes for his people to remain in the land of their fathers would be fully honored. Highly esteemed by his people and belonging to the Ross Indian Party, he exerted a strong influence toward defeating the

*The Cherokee Messenger, a book published in 1936 by the University of Oklahoma Press, has him reactionary, an advocate of old ceremonies such as the green corn dance, the chase, the ballplay, the warpath. He is also pictured as rebelling, 1828, againts the reforming order of things. He was at least against modeling Indian laws and their constitution after those of the white man.

removal of his people. A contemporary, and opposing, group of Indians was the Ridge Party, which favored the treaty responsible for Indian removal.

The position of White Path may have led to a personal difficulty with the oldest son of Clemonds Quillian, who had lived for several years among the Indians. The Quillian youth, at a point close to the present Ellijay railroad station, rashly knocked the chief down; and, for this brazen indignity, came near involving himself and the other whites in serious consequences.

Chief White Path will be remembered not only as a patriot, but as an able man who under severe trial still sought to be just between his people and the white man.

The book, Cherokee Messenger, also has White Path heading a detachment of his own people during the westward trek of 1838 and doing all he could to make the miseries and wretchedness of his people tolerable. The same authority states he died on the way and was buried by the roadside "with a box over his grave and a pole with streamers around it."

But white contemporaries at this end of the trek state he died at Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and that the white people there were kind and considerate of him and sold the watch he so much prized, and with the proceeds purchased a small monument for his grave. And the people of Hopkinsville, fully confirm the traditions regarding the final fate of White Path. They have retained much valuable data and erected a second marker to his memory. One of these was set up in 1838 and the other 100 years later.

The new monument was given to the public on Oct. 26, 1938, by the Col. John Green chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It is located on the scene of the old camping ground to the left of the bridge. The John Green chapter financed and erected it and arranged the dedication. Judge Ira D. Smith made the feature address, and the marker was presented by Mrs. H. E. Maben, regent of the local chapter of DAR.

The inscription on the monument reads:

> In 1838 this lot, then in woods, was used as camping ground for 13,500 Indians removed along this route from the southern states to Oklahoma in detachments of 500. Among those who died while in camp were two noted Cherokees,
>
> Chief Whitepath
> and
> Sub-Chief Fly Smith
> who were buried not far from this spot.
>
> This tablet erected by
> Col. John Green Chapter D. A. R.
> 1938

Col. James F. Buckner, a resident of Hopkinsville at the time of the migration, gave, some 40 years later, his recollections of the occasion. Among other things he said:

"The Indians were divided into detachments of about 1,200, together with their stock; all passed through Hopkinsville. The old and infirm were carried in wagons and on horseback. The able-bodied, with their slaves (of whom there were many hundreds) were on foot. Each detachment was controlled by one or more chiefs. An occasional detachment of soldiers brought up the rear to prevent straggling and to preserve order. Stations were established about 15 miles apart along the road, where provisions were supplied by contractors, and groups passed about every 48 hours."

INDIAN HEAD FROM TOMB OF WHITE PATH AT HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY

"The Indians occupied a camp on the east bank of the east fork of the Little River, near the city, at what was then Bibson's mill, later Wood's mill. The Cherokees were a source of great curiosity and interest among the citizens. The prominent ones, particularly the ministers and their families, were invited to the houses of citizens. The churches were thrown open to them; and services, when a detachment was camping, held nearly every night in some of the churches.

"At the head of one of these groups was Fly Smith, an old man, late a member of the Cherokee Council. He was accompanied by Stephen Forman, a Presbyterian minister who had been educated at Andover, Massachusetts. On the morning when the detachment was being placed in order for its journey, it was found that Fly Smith was sick and unable to resume his journey. His friends were obliged to proceed without him. Forman and his wife remained to take care of him. He was very old, broken in spirit, travel worn.

"The next company came up in charge of White Path. His fame having preceded him, curiosity to see him ran high among the people. He was accompanied by Jesse Bushyhead and his family. Bushyhead was a Baptist minister, well educated, a celebrated orator, an able interpreter and altogether one of the most influential men in the nation.

"When the detachment halted at the camp ground in the grove, fires had been lighted and provisions issued, many citizens—myself among them—sought out the tent of White Path. We were met, however, by Bushyhead and told the chief was ill. 'And I believe,' Bushyhead gravely added, 'he will die.'

"White Path was old and feeble and much exhausted by travel. Physicians of the town offered to administer to him, but he declined their services. He died the next morning. He had lately been president of the Cherokee Council, of which Fly Smith was also a member. Both were buried next evening on the east bank of the river near the camp. At each grave, there among the cedars, a simple monument was raised.

"Bushyhead and Forman, speaking to crowded audiences in neighboring churches, sketched the lives of their distinguished chiefs, making occasional allusions to the history and trials of the Cherokees; and, while I have heard many eloquent funeral sermons, I have never listened to one more impressive or eloquent than were those spoken by these two Indian ministers over the graves of Fly Smith and White Path."

The grove in which the graves were located has long since been cleared away. The simple tombstones first erected did not long remain. The entire site of the camp in the bend of the river is now a well kept pasture, and fat cattle graze about the graves of the Indian leaders of 131 years ago. The erection of their new marker has already been discussed.

Bushyhead (Oo-na-du-ta), according to a Gilmer census roll of 1835, courteously furnished by the Oklahoma Historical Society, is recorded among the Indians as follows: Bushyhead—seven fullbloods, two farms, two farmers, one weaver, two spinsters. There was another Bushyhead who was the only son of Capt. John Stuart (himself born in Scotland and having a conspicuous shock of blonde hair, hence the name). This Bushyhead married Nancy Foreman, half-blood daughter of Anthony Foreman, a Scotchman; and the daughter lived, died and was buried in Georgia. Oklahoma historians think he was the man who gave his name to Bushyhead mountain in upper Boardtown district.

He was the father of Rev. Jesse Bushyhead, born in Tennessee in 1804 and died July 17, 1884, in Oklahoma. Robert Sparks Walker describes Jesse Bushyhead as an able and eloquent Baptist minister who knew English and was the Cherokees' foremost interpreter.

Other Prominent Indians

About the time the County was organized Chief Walking Stick owned and occupied the farm, now the property of the Georgia Power Company, a mile south of Ellijay, and just beyond the old Cobb bridge site. According to the Boston Recorder-Telegraph of Nov. 14, 1828, he was living there late that year. The old house on this place burned March 10, 1954.

Walking Stick, who rated high in the councils of his people and as a diplomat between them and the white man's government, worked in close accord with White Path. He enrolled and went west in 1838.

Early in 1834 Chief Chicksettihee lived in upper Owltown, probably on a farm known to moderns as the Parks place, which was already cleared up to a considerable extent and was being cultivated by the chief.

Little Rabbit was principal chief in Mountaintown district Feb. 4, 1823. White, a few years later, reported Cartalona, another chief, as also living there.

Rising Fawn, a contemporary of Little Rabbit, lived at Turniptown. Little Turkey likewise lived there. And Chief White Path was regarded as living in that community.

Chief Double Head was probably living in Tickanetley at, or near, the time of removal of the Indians. For Joe Newberry, born while the Indians were still here, remembered about him, stating that the family of his father, William O.

Newberry, once lived in a cabin that had been occupied by Double Head. A tradition persisted and was common among white pioneers that the chief lost a baby that was snatched up by a ravenous wild eagle and taken eastward toward some mountain cliffs. No trace of the infant was ever found.

Removal Treaty Signed

Considerable friction between Ross and Ridge parties struck fire. But in spite of that, on Dec. 29, 1835, John Ridge and his associates, at New Echota, signed away the Cherokee domains. The seat of the Cherokee government became so called because when the Cherokee nation was reorganized May 6, 1817, New Echota, or New Town, became the new and permanent seat of government of the Cherokees. An early post office was established there, and Samuel Worcester, a white friend to the Indians, became the first postmaster, serving in that capacity until April 1830.

In February 1836 John Ross and other Indians (including Chief Walking Stick of Gilmer County) visited Washington in an effort to abrogate—or at least modify—this treaty. Their mission failed.

Most of the Cherokees in Gilmer, as well as in all the other mountain counties, belonged to the Ross following, while those in the more southern sections were apter to be in the Ridge party, named for Major Ridge who lived in West Rome and ruled in that section. Ross lived in Tennessee, just north of the Georgia line, in what is now suburban Chattanooga.

Ross and Ridge are both described by contemporaries as being men of fine intellect and great influence among their people. Not only did the parties, or factions, headed by these men, clash here, but they carried their bitterness west with them, where this feeling long smouldered. The year after the last removal party left Georgia, Ridge was murdered. This was done, it was generally believed, on account of his position on the matter of removal. John Ridge started to school at the Moravian mission at Spring Place. He later was further educated at Cornwall, Connecticut, later still, at Princeton. He studied with Elias Boudinot.

John Ross was "born in the Cherokee Nation about 1790." His father was Daniel Ross, a Scotch Tory. His mother was a half-breed, daughter of a Scotch captain in the British army. Ross was thus, in his ancestry, three-fourths white. His first wife was a full blood.

He earned his right to be called an American patriot. For, under Gen. Andrew Jackson in 1813 and 1814, as Adjutant of the Cherokee Regiment in the war against the Creek Indians and their allies, the British, he served the white man's cause with courage and distinction.

Except for the good offices of Ross among his people, the Cherokees would have, instead of submitting to removal, probably given the white government a vast amount more of trouble than they did. He earnestly entreated his people, facing the inevitable, to submit as agreeably as they could to the treaty with the whites. But it might be added that the Cherokees did so, even then, with bitter reluctance. Many whites were deeply perturbed to the last over the grave possibilities of Cherokee final resistance to removal.

It is to the honor of perhaps both whites and Indians in Gilmer that, even when red men outnumbered whites ten to one, no scalping ever occurred within the County's bounds. Individual Indians had a high sense of honor. Once one walked all the way from Amicalola to Ellijay, twenty miles, to pay Coke Ellington a quarter debt. However, Samuel Tate writes Governor Gilmer in February 1838 that "there is but little confidence in an Indian . . . it is the mountain Indians that will do mischief if any." B. Griffith also complained, about the

same time, "the Indians of late have become more bold and saucy and stubborn. have formed the notion the agent and troops are here for their protection instead of ours. Indians are carrying corn into the mountains, to which there is an increasing influx from the lower part of the Nation."

Those who despise the intelligence of the Indian might reflect on the fact that he learned English more readily than the white man learned Cherokee. When an Indian became intoxicated, his cruder English was more likely to come to the surface; and coarse, rough phrases seemed easier to remember than elegant language. One big fellow, muddled and excited by excess drinking, is said to have, upon one memorable occasion, gesticulated awkwardly in the air, yelling,

"Heap hell, big cuss! Big Injun me— by damn!"

Another red neighbor was named Swimming Canoe. Other Indian names were as curious and interesting. A few translated into English are, to our way of thinking, ludicrously realistic.

The Indians left here in the hills, of course, the graves of their lost loved ones. These little mounds were scattered about the country, not arranged in masses like white men's cemeteries. Many white people ruthlessly tore into these mounds in hope of finding gold or other treasure. But their usual reward was nothing more than a bad conscience for violating a human tomb, with a few scattered bones—maybe. It has long been established that very few Indians were accompanied to their graves by anything more valuable than arrow and spear heads, an occasional finger ring or random other articles of like negligible value. Only Mexican and South American Indians had gold in quantities and little of that went into tombs.

Bill Holloway, long a citizen of Boardtown, is reported to have been digging a grave for a white person of his community when he dug into the grave of an aborigine who had placed in the grave with him several darts so shapely and well preserved that Horace Ellington offered them to the Smithsonian Institution, where they may still be seen, so it is said.

Our Cherokee Indians had made more advanced steps than they are usually credited with having accomplished. They finally possessed cats, dogs, horses, hogs, poultry and cattle. They knew how to grow on their land patches and gardens corn, beans, potatoes, pumpkins, squashes, and a small variety of grains. Among fruits, they cultivated apples and peaches, also.

Many of them, late in their history and through contact with white men, possessed firearms. Old settlers of the County recalled their steel-headed darts, more powerful and effective than those tipped with chipped stone.

Among the white people who saw the close of Indian occupation were Sam West and his wife Nancy, who settled and died in Alto district. Their home place was occupied not many years ago by Jonathon West. Sam West was so heavily bearded he was shaggy looking. Jimmy West, his father, had come here from Habersham county. Indians lived all around the Wests, some in a field across the valley to the southwest. The Indian home could be seen from the West cabin. An Indian woman, calling upon Mrs. West and espying a skillet of a type common to pioneers, suddenly threw her hands into the air and cried "Witch!"

An Indian uprising, as the date of Indian departure neared, reportedly threatened. This was disclosed to whites by a friendly Indian, who declared in confidence that his people "had their patching all cut and greased."

The Cogginses, who lived where John Walker resided at his death, with some Pettits, several Wests, Isaac Johnson and possibly a few other whites

all gathered in a fort or camp where Tom Tabor later lived, and where Henry Wikle lived at the time. They all camped together there till the Indians were removed.

Jack Patterson was one of the white settlers of Boardtown who grazed grave danger with the Indians. Jack lived at the present Bud Jones place. The Patterson family occupied a cabin that stood about where Mr. Jones lived at his decease. But back eastward a few dozen yards, by the spring that supplied water and on a bluff rising from it, Mr. Patterson is said by old neighbors to have dispensed liquor from a log saloon. He was not averse to having, with his patrons, a drink of his stock, which was of his own manufacture.

On the present occasion a crowd of Cherokee patrons became drunk and disorderly. About as far gone as the Indians, he could not rid himself of them at closing time. He made a final push to send the last lingerer through the puncheon door, when his own feet got tangled and he fell among the feet of the Indians.

Jack's wife, up at the house heard some spine-tingling war whoops down at the spring and, suspecting serious trouble might be in the wind, reached above the fireplace for the family rifle. It was not there! Her husband must have taken it to the saloon and hidden it under the counter. Mrs. Patterson (Jennie by name, it is believed) was tall and powerful of physique—and forthright. Carrying an axe, she hurried down to the focal point of danger. She all but dragged her husband to the house. She then discovered Jack had, in his muddled state, left the gun locked up back in the saloon.

The Indians became louder and more menacing. Their yells came closer to the cabin as they crowded through the darkness toward its front door. Jack seized a long butcher knife and his spouse backed him with the axe.

"The first Indian that sticks his head into this door will get his head cut off," he announced grimly. Nobody made such a choice, and soon thereafter the war whoops of the scattering crowd were trailing back more and more dimly and in a short space of time died out altogether in the distance as individuals trudged their various familiar trails home.

CHAPTER FOUR

Their Pastimes and Customs

The gathering places of Indians are known, in a few cases, through tradition. These gatherings were for both business and pastime. Descendants of William Minter Mathis (often spelt on early records Matthews) say the old Indian dance place in Tickanetley district was at a point near the confluence of Fowler creek with Tickanetley river. This is also pointed out as the probable gathering place for ball games, also. White men used it as a pioneer muster ground.

Mathis knew the region about him. For he reportedly supplied the Indians with firewater, and upon one occasion had to abandon his place of business to a fighting, drunken, riotous mob. He and his wife watched the outcome from the vantage of their own home.

An Indian "ball play" was conducted upon one occasion two miles north of Ellijay on the Boardtown road. This was not later than the fall of 1833, and the exact spot must have been the Math Bennett place, scarcely a mile from town now, where L. D. Ellington lived in 1879. Such games are described by James Adair and quoted by Lucian Lamar Knight. Ball Ground district was named from ground given to this sport.

Levi Huffstutler, pioneer sheriff of Gilmer, attended the game up the road. B. B. Quillian charged Huffstutler of going, not to see the game, but to get nearer the liquor the red folk would have on hand.

By "evening," relates Mr. Quillian, Huffstutler, and some Indians were all heavily "under the influence." Mr. Huffstutler, aroused to a fighting mood, clashed with some of the inebriated red men. The incident came near costing the white man his life. Barring the quick plea of Kate Fence,* a half-breed girl, the drunken reds would have doubtless made short shrift of Huffstutler.

The ball play that proved but a brawl for Huffstutler has been described by B. B. Quillian, an eye-witness: "Rougher than one is likely to even imagine, the game was played by drawing up two lines of players, one facing the other, the sides at opposite ends of the grounds. An individual player, in between, scored when he carried the ball beyond this line of his opponents.**

"Sticks some two and one-half to three feet long were employed to catch the ball. A round bowl tipped the stick at the outer end. A pocket (with this bowl as its opening) was attached at the side. In this pocket the ball was caught and held.

"The top heat of the game was the struggle to carry the ball beyond the opposing line, a feat that won the game. The player that carried the ball toward that point met terrific obstacles. Members of the opposing side, clashing in fierce rough and tumble with him, grabbed and held him unless he was able to plow his way through.

*Kate Fence lived in the first house on the Boardtown road, in recent years Cleve Bennett's home having stood on about the same spot. In 1959 three other residences come between this house and the Cox Mill creek. Kate's father, a white named Love, came from an older Georgia county. He settled at present Talking Rock, the place being shown on old maps as Love's. Love kept a stopping place for travelers on the Old Federal road. The girl, being thus in frequent contact with English-speaking travelers, early learned the language. At the moment of Huffstutler's most critical danger she rushed up and pleaded for his life, clinching her plea with: "If you Indians kill **him**, the whites will come and kill ALL the Indians."

**The game has been described as a hodgepodge of soccer, lacrosse, wrestling and modern football, with phases of the last predominant.

"It was frightful to see the players pile upon the ground, with the one that held the ball at the bottom of the pile. This lowest man was bound to be crushed and ground under the wild scramble. Not infrequently he came out badly bruised, battered scratched and bleeding. But the contest was not over till the ball was captured and carried across the line.

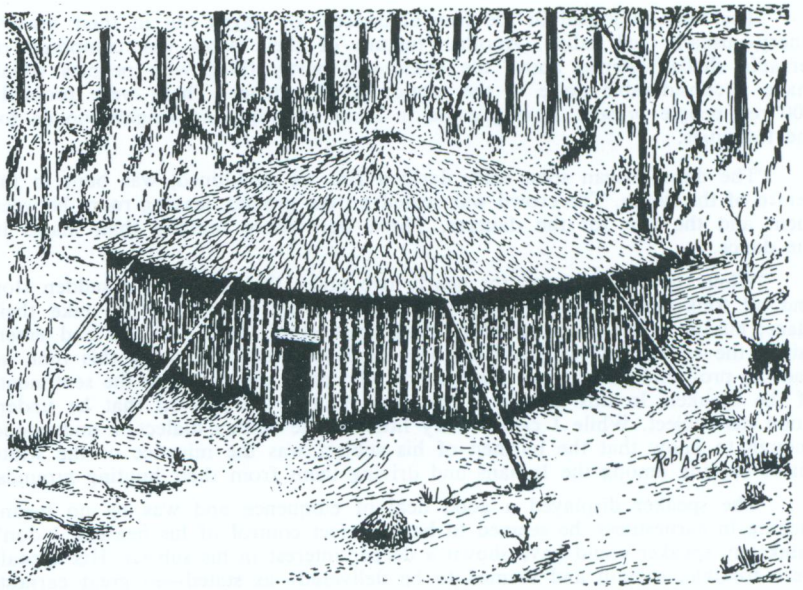
"Persons appointed by the contestants kept count (score) of the game.

"These ball plays (games, we moderns would call them) commanded a large attendance, tremendous crowds coming from far and near to witness them. Women and girls, as well as men and boys, mingled and milled about.

"The fact that players were almost naked proved no embarrassment to anybody, for such was custom recognized and established.

"If a player got badly hurt in a play, the fact did not seem to engender any pronounced bitterness between opposing sides. One Indian named Wolf-tracker, who lived across Cartecay river from Ellijay, got his shoulder broken and was disabled from work for an entire summer, and lost his crop."

We quote B. B. Quillian on a visit to an Indian dance in Gilmer County: "In the summer of 1833, in company with my brother-in-law, Isham C. King, I went to what was called an Indian dance. It took place just over the creek above Ellijay in Mrs. Cox's field, where the Indians had erected a town house such as they placed in every prominent neighborhood . . .



INDIAN TOWN HOUSE, ELLIJAY

Still standing in the summer of 1833. We are indebted to B. B. Quillian for a word description of this structure, and to Robert C. Adams, artist, of Atlanta for the drawing. The building stood where Charley Logan's residence now stands. A general description of such houses is given in the 5th Ethnological Report, pp 87-88.

"The house was circular in form with a general diameter of about sixty feet. Its construction was of a rude and primitive fashion, but served very well its purpose. Long poles were set on the ground or on a small elevation at a proper distance from each other. They formed a sharp angle and joined together at the top, and were made secure with withes or bark.

"Across these poles were interlaced stout withes; the roof, at this stage of completion, resembled a sort of wicker work; over these were then laid carefully selected pieces of pine bark in overlapping series like a slate roof. The completed roof made a covering perfectly impervious to rain, as I have often seen tested.

"The house was without windows and had but one door. Fire, when needed, was built in the middle of the room. A good pine knot fire would light up the whole building. The smoke was left to make its way out above. At times the whole upper part of the house became opaque with smoke, but this did not seemingly annoy the inmates.

"The town house was a place of great resort for both business and pleasure; in fact, it was a sort of combined town hall and courthouse of our day. There justice was dispensed to the tribe, and there were held councils as well as the festival dances peculiar to the Indians.

"One of the dances was called the green corn dance, and this is what we visited. The Indians formed a circle and marched around the fire singing with a wild, strange grotesqueness of gesture and outcry; the cries ranging through the whole gamut from a gutteral grunt to the sharpest treble.

"The females joined in the festival dances, all rigged out in their bravest finery—usually red calico. Another feature of their dress was composed of terrapin shells fastened above the ankle and partly filled with pebbles which made a considerable noise in the motion of the dance. There were probably 200 red people present, having come in from all adjoining neighborhoods for the festivities.

"The dance began soon after dark; a fire, as mentioned, was built in the centre of the house. The crowd was seated on the ground, leaving room between them and the fire for the dancers. There were more females than males in the dance.

"When they had danced for nearly two hours they came to a sudden stop and all took their seats. We did not know but a fresh set would take their place; but in a few minutes White Path, their chief, came forward and entertained the crowd with a speech of over an hour's length. During this time he had the profound attention of his hearers, who often responded to the sentiments of the speaker. In this manner of address White Path showed that he understood his subject. While I caught very little of the Indian dialect, I understood enough to know that the burthen of his subject was the injustice of the white man's coming among the Indians and driving them from their hunting grounds.

"The speaker displayed a good deal of eloquence and was by no means lacking in earnestness; he seemed to have perfect control of his hearers. I don't think any speaker could have shown a deeper interest in his subject. His appeals were forcible, solemn and seemed to be delivered—as stated—in great earnestness. At the close of his speech we bowed a good night and left for home. The Indians, especially those who lived closer by and knew us, treated us very kindly and seemed to take great interest in our comfort.

"That was the first and last Indian dance I ever attended, and in my judgment we ought to give the Indians a monopoly of such amusements. Such

dances are, in my view, beneath the intelligence and dignity of cultivated Christian people: But I do not intend to moralize here."*

*The location was "across the (Cox Mill) creek in Mrs. Cox's field." (Ellijay Courier, April 10, 1884.)

CHAPTER FIVE

Their Removal

As far back as 1802 the Federal Government agreed to acquire title to all Indian-occupied lands in Georgia and to transfer ownership of these to the State. It was further agreed for Georgia, the Indians disposed of, to allow white settlers to occupy the vacated lands.

The Cherokees, in general, inhabited an area north of a line along Broad river to Athens, thence by an undulating route to Cedartown. The Creek Indians, who lived next south of them, had, in their time, ceded lands far north of this, the last cession being November 15, 1827. Shortly after the last of the Creeks left Georgia. Such facts intensified the drive to get the Cherokees out.

Georgia, upon the recommendation of Governor John Forsyth, extended the application of its laws over the Cherokee country. On December 20, 1828, such jurisdiction was extended, marking the legal birth of Gilmer County as a part of Georgia.

Gold, discovered in the Indian country (Lumpkin county) in 1829, on the Chestatee and Etowah rivers, brought added perplexities. A wild, lawless element having poured in, Georgia, in 1830, required all white persons living in the Cherokee country to secure a permit to do so before March 1, 1831. This law was callously invoked against white missionaries, the very people who had come to teach the Indians law and order and conscience, not to mention temperance.

In 1831 Governor Wilson Lumpkin ordered Cherokee lands surveyed. Legislation of December 22 of that year provided for the survey of the lands, this to begin April 1, 1832. Upon completion of the survey, Governor Lumpkin promised, there should be a drawing of land lots, which had been authorized Dec. 21, 1830.

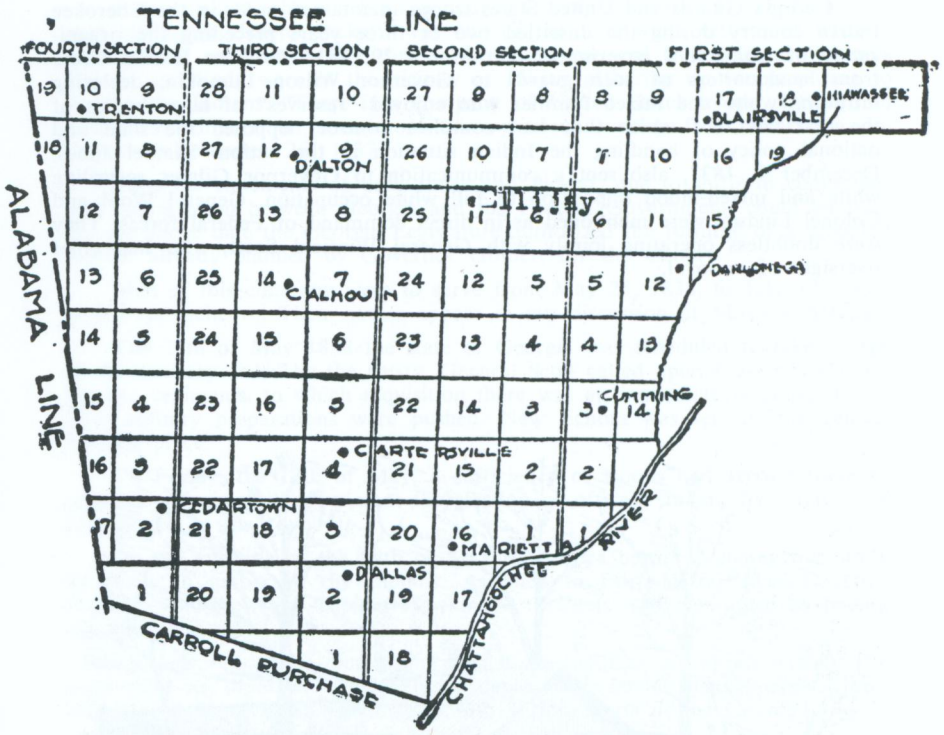
In 1831 Cherokee Georgia was surveyed, by order of the governor, into four sections. The time was described as "the winter of that year." The usual surveying party consisted of a surveyor, a chain carrier, two axe men, a pack carrier, and a cook. Sections were designed to be 27 miles wide.

The sections were then laid off into land districts, nine miles square. Thirty-three districts in the First, Second, Third and Fourth sections were laid off into 40-acre lots called "gold lots." This was done because gold had already been found in the Cherokee country and the possibility that more might be found was recognized and exploited.

Sixty districts were laid off into 160-acre lots called "land lots" to distinguish them from the gold lots, which were only a fourth as large. Lots never applied for became "wild land."

The last survey continued on into the spring and possibly early summer of 1832. Then the state was ready to keep records. So that, Oct. 22, 1832, the lottery for the distribution of land lots was conducted at Milledgeville. This gave possession and the right to occupy the newly acquired lands.

Drawers were screened in an effort to bring in deserving settlers. The drawer paid a fixed amount (around $5) for the privilege and chances of thus acquiring a lot of 160 acres. He might, however, draw a blank. He paid for his land whether he ever occupied it or not. Many never claimed or occupied their lots and so these were sometimes settled by a type known as squatters

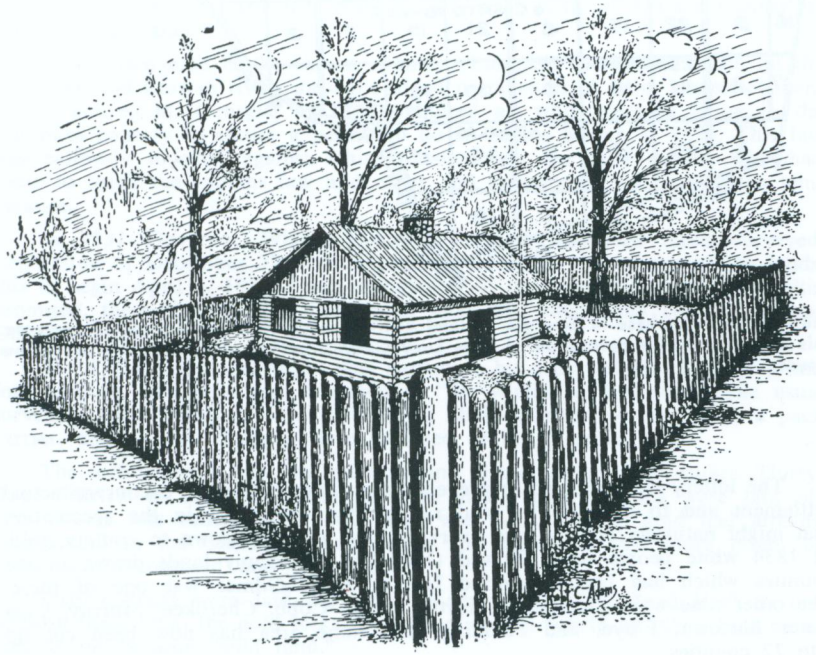


The Cherokee Purchase in Georgia by land districts, each of which is nine miles square. This map is used by permission of Miss Lucy Cunyus, author of the History of Bartow County.

The lottery was designed to prevent unfair competition, to encourage actual settlement and to develop the land rather than to engage in the speculation that might naturally become rife over a region already known to contain gold. In 1834 white people were allowed (lawfully) to occupy lands drawn in the counties which had been organized late in 1832. Gilmer was one of these. The other nine were Lumpkin, Forsyth, Union, Cobb, Cherokee, Murray, Cass (later Bartow), Floyd, and Paulding. The same area has now been cut up into 22 counties.

The Indians were offered $5,700,000 for their lands in northern Georgia and as much territory in the present Oklahoma as they gave up in Georgia. The western possessions were six million acres in the eastern end of Oklahoma known as the Cherokee Strip. As time for their removal neared, tension heightened. For a majority of the Indians affirmed they had never agreed to go west, and in this contention had been sustained by the United States Supreme Court. On June 2, 1836, C. Quillian wrote Governor Schley of this concern. White citizens had already formed a volunteer company for mutual protection. This body, through Mr. Quillian, urged the governor to furnish the company arms.

Georgia Guards and United States troops maintained order in the Cherokee Indian country during the unsettled two or three years preceding the organization of white civil government. On March 29, 1832, William Hardin wrote from headquarters of such guards to Governor Wilson Lumpkin, declaring intruding white and mixed families who enjoyed "reserves" of large bodies of the best land (of which they had complete control) opposed the state and national policy of handling the Indian situation in the nation. Samuel Jones, December 2, 1837, also sent a communication to Governor Gilmer regarding white and mixed-blood opposition to full white occupation. General Wool and Colonel Lindsey were mentioned as in direct command of Federal forces. They were doubtless operating jointly with General Winfield Scott, who had chief oversight of removal.



FORT HETZEL, ON THE SITE OF PRESENT EAST ELLIJAY

This structure and the stir of life of which it was the center still live in the traditions of families whose ancestors saw it and helped build it. The severely simple fort stood until about 1868. A restoration based upon careful research by the Author and artist, Robert C. Adams. Reportedly 1100 Indians were herded in here at one time during removal in 1838. The fort seems to have existed several years prior to Indian removal, being enlarged a few months before in anticipation of that event.

Fort Hetzel is still sometimes called Fort Gilmer. But Fort Gilmer stood opposite the Sam Carter home in Murray county, and was abandoned March 24, 1842.

Julius Pickett, who was born in Gilmer County December 11, 1837, recalled that his father, Joseph Pickett, was one of the first white settlers at what is now Ellijay; and that, at the time of his birth, national troops under Generals Nelson and Cody were in the vicinity of Ellijay gathering up (or preparing to do so) the Indians. "There is a company of United States troops stationed in Gilmer at Ellijay," an anonymous correspondent, writing from Blairsville, informs us December 26, 1837.

Thus the statements of both Jones and Pickett, due to shifts in commands and co-operation between Georgia and the Federal Government, could be true. On the above date the Georgia Legislature authorized the forming of a mounted militia, already planned by Governor Gilmer, for the County.

Men of this company were to serve from May 25, 1838, to July 12, 1838. both days inclusive. Their names appear in our discussion of Military Affairs.

The 24th of May 1838 the state of Georgia was scheduled to take charge of the territory ceded by the treaty. General Scott called upon Governor Gilmer for two regiments, to which requisition there was an immediate response. Other final military preparations were pushed. New Echota was set for the central meeting place.

On Friday, the 18th of May, a sufficiency of troops had arrived there to organize a regiment and warrant the election of officers. In all, five companies participated in the round-up.

On the morning of the 24th of May the troops began spreading out along the trails to gather in the Indians. Assigned to Fort Hetzel were Captains Horton* and Brewster. Captain Hawkins F. Price is also mentioned as having an immediate part.

Local troops, filing out from present East Ellijay at approximately the same time as those at New Echota, deployed in small detachments (using wagons and teams when practicable) into various parts of the County.

But the Indians by no means met them at the door. Instead, they fled—men, women and children—precipitately into mountain fastnesses well known to themselves but quite a problem and a mystery to the troops. Consequently, troops, at the close of the first day, came home with few prisoners.

But after two or three days the Indians, to the vast mental relief of the scattered whites and great simplification of the task of removal, came out of hiding.

Operating in small bands and detached groups, the white troops made prisoner of one family after another and brought them in to detention camps. The prisoners were held there for the present. By the end of June nearly all the Cherokees had been gathered into such quarters.

Then more thousands began their march to the West. But the heat and drought (with consequent low water on the Tennessee river) of the season necessitated a suspension of emigration till September, when 14,000 took up the trail. In fact, the main body of migrants left at this time. The last departed in November; some say it was as late as December.

The whole journey was reckoned at six to seven hundred miles and was completed in about four months—perhaps five, in cases. Travel finally had to be done overland, low water having rendered the river route highly hazardous. Cost of removal has been computed at $65.88 per individual. Departure was by way of Gunter's Landing, Ross's Landing, "the agency," and so on, such places being designated as "depots."

*Initials J. W. From Jackson county, he remained at the task 30 days.

Touching incidents were common during removal. An unnamed Indian mother, her violent protestations evidently having been unheeded, was driven into camp at East Ellijay, then Fort Hetzel. Her frenzied condition continued but the white soldiers could not understand her.

They then called an interpreter, who translated the startling fact that when she was seized and forced from her home, some of her small children, in a panic of fear, had fled to nearby thickets and were probably still there. White men, their humanitarian feelings quickened, went back to her home with her. When the party reached the abandoned house, no children were in sight. But, the woman having given a little call familiar to the children, out they popped from their place of concealment.

Things, as described by William J. Cotter, an eyewitness, were left in a state of chaos, wreck and ruin at Indian houses and premises. Doors stood open. Cows and calves were left separated, chickens and cats skulked and wandered about. Dogs howled. Belled ponies stood under trees unfed and without a master.

The whole number of Indians collected from original Gilmer was probably three or four thousand. The total gathered from the "Cherokee Country" was, in round numbers, 20,000. In 1840 those who hid in the mountains were, in the greater part, removed. But 1500 others fled to North Carolina, where on a reservation near Bryson City, their descendants still live.

From the time the removal of the Indians began till the last company completed the trip more than 4,000 persons sank under their sufferings and died—one fifth of the whole number. Many simply lay down on boat docks or by the side of trails and died from no accountable cause except grief and mental pain. On the slow toilsome march, the children suffered keenly. George W. Hyatt, among those sensitive to the distresses of passing Indians, often accommodated them overnight. Even adult Indians, with their little "bandana" wrapped around personal bundles, kept up a piteous wailing over their iron fate.

From Ross's Landing, according to original plans, the journey was to be completed by water, by way of the Mississippi. But drought thwarted this scheme and much hampered and delayed solutions to their travel problems. Some groups went on to the Cumberland and Ohio rivers and were perhaps able to float down both streams. After their arrival, dissatisfaction grew, discord was rife, illness became widespread. The sudden transfer from the healthful climate of northern Georgia to low, sometimes malarial regions was a drastic shock and a terrific problem in adaptation. At the age of five the author of this volume lived a while among these re-settled people and their descendants. We found the region malarial.

Property the expatriated Indians were obliged to leave behind was sold by "Indian agents" (Samuel Jones being one of ours) appointed for the purpose, and the proceeds forwarded to the Indians in their new home.

The Cherokees were already reaching a settled, civilized order in this section. And, for much of this development, the pure-blood Indians should be credited. The red people of course took the seeds of progress west with them. But much, such as cleared land, houses and occasional roads they had to leave behind or destroy, a thing seldom attempted. Roads were started in the Cherokee country by Chief James Vann in 1804. These improvements consisted mainly in connecting and further developing such roads and trails as already existed.

It is time to pay some tribute to Sequoia, or Sequoyah, whose fame rests largely on his invention of a syllabary. This was a series of symbols standing for all the elementary sounds of the language of his people. He completed, after

years of trying, the syllabary in 1825. The most remarkable thing about this man was that, by leaping forward through his symbols, he saved himself the vast burden of picture writing and waiting experienced by some of the leading nations of the world. He has been described as "the greatest Indian," though he was half white. His syllabary gave him wide note and quickened the advance of his people. In 1826 a printing press was set up at New Echota. And on Feb. 21, 1828, Elias Boudinot, another Indian, began publishing an Indian Newspaper, known as the Cherokee Phoenix, which used English and the syllabary of Sequoia.

Sequoia, or Sequoyah, inventor of the Syllabary that spread knowledge among his people. A county and a national park have been named in his honor, as have the great redwood trees of California. His statue adorns Statuary Hall in the rotunda of the Capitol in Washington.

As far back as 1827 the Cherokees had formed a written constitution modeled after the white man's but in some respects better. It was formally adopted July 26, 1827. Their larger communities had shoe stores, furniture shops and taverns, as in New Echota. In their capital city, too, a school was established in 1828. Missionaries had gone to work there even sooner.

Indians credited to Georgia in the 1950 census numbered 333. Very few people in Gilmer County could qualify today (1959) as Indians beyond sufficient blood perhaps to pass government requirements for sharing in the distribution of funds such as have been provided for descendants of the Cherokees.

The late John Tucker III (Indian name Conseenee) came as close as any of us to being Cherokee. He came from a long and honored line of patriots and interpreters. His father, John Tucker II, was born Jan. 11, 1846, and died Jan. 4, 1938. The grandfather of John Tucker II was a fullblood,* and is said to have fought in the Revolution on the side of the Colonies.

John Tucker II grew up in Cherry Log district at, or near, a place long occupied by Larkin Holt. More recently it has been occupied by Ab Holt, Larkin Holt's son, who died a few months ago. The father of John Tucker II is believed to have also been named John.** The first John Tucker was a miller and farmer in the same location. The Tuckers came by their name because they were brought up in this same spot by a man that appears to have been named Ned Tucker. Ned Tucker must have built a grist mill on the shoals of the Ellijay river just below his house. But prior to the formation of Gilmer County Ned Tucker left there and the Conseenees came into possession of much if not all the land and houses on both sides of the river. John Tucker I, brought up at this place, was a valuable help during removal, when he served as interpreter. He was permitted to stay in Gilmer for his substantial service in those trying days. John Tucker II went to school on Buckhorn Hill to Landrine Tatum and Ephraim Shelton.

In his old age, John Tucker II also recalled that Dave Tucker, a brother-in-law of his and almost a fullblood, was also a linguist during removal. He also remembered from his fathers the traditional treaty between the whites and Indians, supposed to be perpetual—to abide as long as water ran and oaks stood. But, while he did not understand why it was violated, his tone was not accusing.

For centuries to come the white man's posterity will hear over and over the story of the red people instated here before the white man. Yet these Indians themselves must have displaced and succeeded other races of men (howbeit probably related to the modern Indian), prehistoric and lost to record.

And, as time passes, the Indian will recede farther, inexorably, into the voids and shadows of things that have been. His admixture with other races will modify more and more his racial traits; and his habits and customs will linger as an ever dimming tradition. The individual Indian that we have known will become so modified that he will hardly be identifiable (like the rest of us) with his primitive forebears.

But his removal was the most stupendous single event of our history. It seems we could at least better mark their homes and their burial spots, placing a specially designed marker at every Indian grave already known or that may be hereafter discovered in Gilmer County.

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*We have a clue that he may have been named William Conseenee.

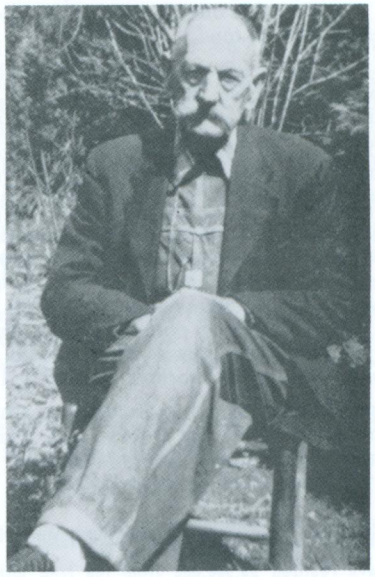
**John Tucker, III, said he believed his grandfather was also named John Tucker. Old documents confirm him in his view.

JOHN TUCKER (CONSEENEE) II

January 11, 1846 — January 4, 1938

JOHN TUCKER (CONSEENEE) III

Son of above. Taken April 7, 1957, the day (a cool one) Mr. Tucker, age 87, was baptized in Mountaintown creek. He died October 24, 1962.



CHAPTER SIX

Original Survey and Settlement

When Georgia began, in 1832, laying off the Cherokee country into sections, districts and lots, the engineers* started their first base line from the meeting point of North Carolina and Tennessee and proceeded straight south to the Chattahoochee river. East of that line was Section one and, west, Section two, which included nearly all of Gilmer.

Sections were divided into districts nine miles square. Districts were in turn cut up into lots half a mile square. Besides the territory that became Gilmer, contiguous areas were simultaneously organized into the counties of Union, Cherokee, and Murray. Dawson, Pickens and Fannin counties later acquired some territory originally belonging to Gilmer.

When a drawer in the Cherokee lottery paid his five dollars and drew a number and a name for a state grant of Gilmer County land, for instance, he paid whether he settled on the land or not. There were originally, it is said, a grand total of 18,000 lots of 160 acres each. Gold lots were but 40-acre, or quarter, lots, and the 36,000 acres divided into these must have lain outside Gilmer, where gold had not yet been discovered by white men. An act of the Georgia Legislature of December 21, 1835, directed that grants be issued to drawers of Gilmer lands.**

The white man found the Indian well established in the region which today, in its placidity, seems never to have echoed to savage war whoops. The degree of civilization attained by the Cherokees (an important part of which they acquired through contact with white men) was the highest among eastern Indians.

These people usually employed, for building sites, points of natural altitude and vantage overlooking a stream and their cultivated land, and near a spring of water. Old settlers used to point out places like the site of the Math Bennett home where Indian cabins once stood.

Gilmer is classed "mountain," though a few counties have higher mountains. Perhaps no other county, however, has a larger area, correctly classed as mountain. Its mountains account for its high average altitude. The Blue Ridge (usually more than a mere "ridge," as the term goes) penetrates the County from the northeast. It breaks abruptly at Springer Mountain, then zigzags to the north ten miles, passing by Stanley Gap. Thence it follows the northern border. But it bends northward at the town of Blue Ridge, leaving the county entirely and affording a gap for a railroad and highways. Another drop occurs on the Chestnut Gap road a few miles west of the city of Blue Ridge, after which the Blue Ridge forms Bushyhead Mountain, once more entering Gilmer. It is part of Boardtown and Mountaintown districts till it enters Murray County west of the Sassafras Gap. It sheds a portion of the drainage of Cherry Log, Diamond, Boardtown and Mountaintown districts into the Ohio River and causes their winters to be colder, their springs tardier, and their summers cooler.

The highest mountains rise to the northeast in Cherrylog and Diamond districts, and range upward to 4,120 feet in Big Bald. This section is practically uninhabited woods, once rich in game and pasturage. It is some 80,000 acres in extent. A kindred wilderness lies north and west, but is only about a third

*One of these was Thomas Mason, who wrote a beautiful script. He was at work here June 9, 1832.

**Georgia was said to have realized $8,500,000 from the land lottery.

as large. In Bucktown are more vast tracts. Others extend southward on both the eastern and western borders. On the west side the mountains are known as the Cohuttas (Indian word, frog), and mark the southern limits of the Appalachian mountains. Stover Mountain, slightly northeast of Ellijay about eight miles, is an extreme southern spur of the Blue Ridge. While districts like Leaches, Towncreek and Ballground are largely rolling and grow some cotton, the County in the main of speech and custom is mountain. The people in its highest altitudes, stimulated by a superior climate, are peculiarly energetic, talented and ambitious for progress.

Chief mountainous parts are gradually being acquired by the Federal Government and converted into forest reserves, recreation parks and game refuges.

The County's highly varied topography explains errors in its approximate "original survey" of 1832, which at times cannot be reconciled with the exacting accuracy of modern land measurements.

All the territory north of the Chattahoochee river (and a small area south) was once known as the "Cherokee Indian Country." Gilmer County embraced approximately one-tenth of this. The territory was first attached to border counties, was then organized as a single county called "Cherokee."

After a few months Gilmer was created in the spring of 1832 by the state of Georgia. Locally this organization was completed a year later.

As a part of the organization of Gilmer and the Indian country was the designation of the first polling place, which was to be "where Ned Tucker formerly lived."* This appears to have been the old Lark Holt place in Cherry Log district, a community still known as "Goose Island."

This plan apparently was abandoned, before March 4, 1833, in favor of holding it on the Chief Walking Stick farm a mile south of Ellijay.** However, we believe the intent of the law was the spot in Cherry Log district, already an "improved area." And here all subsequent elections were to be held until the county site was permanently located by proper authority, which was the inferior court.

The legal steps in the formation of the County are thus worded:

"And be it further enacted, That the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th and such parts of the 24th and 25th districts as lie east of a line commencing at the centre of the south line of the 24th and running due north to the north line of the 25th, and so much of the 26th and 27th Districts of said second section as lie east of a range of mountains running north and south through said district, shall form and become one county, to be called Gilmer . . .

"And be it further enacted, That the places of holding elections for said counties shall be as follows: In the County of Gilmer, at the place where Ned Tucker recently lived."

The first Monday in March next (March 4, 1833) was set for the election of the following officers: Five justices of the inferior court, a clerk of superior and inferior courts, a sheriff, a tax collector, a tax receiver, a county surveyor, and a coroner.

Other legal procedure in the formation of the County was:

"December 3, 1832. Wilson Lumpkin, Governor:

*Georgia Laws, 1832, p. 56.

**The farm was then owned by a white settler named Benjamin Griffeth. B. B. Quillian, here at the time, and one of the men elected to local office at that date, so states in the Ellijay Courier October 3, 1879.

An Act to add part of the Counties of Habersham and Hall to the County of Cherokee, and divide Cherokee into 10 counties . . .

"December 20, 1834. To incorporate and make permanent the county site in Gilmer at Ellijay. Commissioners for the town of Ellijay—William P. King, Henry K. Quillian, B. L. Goodman, Nathan Smith, Joshua Bowan.

"Justices of the Inferior Court shall designate the site for the necessary County buildings, and have power to erect same.

"Justices, as soon as practicable, shall lay off their respective Counties into Captains districts. They shall also direct the election for two Justices of the Peace in each Captain district, said Justices to be commissioned by the Governor. and to hold until January 1835; and two or more voting places in each district.

"A Captain and a subaltern shall be elected in each Captain District, as required by militia laws now in force; the Captain to make out such rolls of persons in their respective districts as are liable to do militia duty, and return the same to the Inferior Court.

"All the Counties surveyed out of Cherokee shall form a judicial circuit. to be called Cherokee Circuit.

"Superior Court in Gilmer shall be held on Thursday after the 4th Monday in February and August each year; and the Inferior Court of Gilmer on the 2nd Monday in May and November each year."

The first election (held March 4, 1833) resulted in the choice of the following officers: clerk of superior court, Thomas M. Burnett; clerk of the inferior court, H. K. Quillian; justices of the inferior court, Ralph Smith, Robert Berry, Benjamin Cooper, B. M. Griffeth, Cornelius Cooper. Levi W. Huffstutler was elected sheriff; Benjamin Griffeth, county surveyor; John W. Bramlett, county treasurer; Thomas Guthrie, coroner.

Of these men not more than two were alive late in the year 1879, and only one of these was still in Gilmer County. He was John W. Bramlett, who lived a mile south of Ellijay. Bramlett held his office of County Treasurer for thirty years. This was a remarkably long period for those formative times and speaks well for his record.

"Mr. Bramlett is still an honored citizen in your midst, with the weight of eighty-five years pressing upon him. He is cheerful and buoyant and bids fair to live many days yet. May no dark clouds obscure his last setting sun."*

At the first election held in Gilmer County only fourteen votes were cast—the entire voting strength of the County. Indians were not permitted to vote.

When Huffstutler was elected the first sheriff of Gilmer County it was with the understanding that B. B. Quillian should be his deputy and transact all the business connected with the office. Accordingly, Quillian took the oath of office along with Mr. Huffstutler, and entered upon its duties. Quillian was but 18 years old. The duties of the office were not onerous till young Quillian learned the ropes and got things going.

As soon as the newly elected justices of the inferior court were commissioned, their first duty was to locate the site of the new county of Gilmer. But two places were considered—one the spot already mentioned as designated for the election (the Neal Gentry farm), the other the present Ellijay. The majority of the inferior court decided upon Ellijay.

*Quoted from B. B. Quillian, writing in 1879.

The County and Ellijay started off fortunately. Clemonds Quillian, father of B. B. Quillian, had already undertaken to procure for both the most important concession in the first 100 years of the County's history. He procured from Martin Scalf, a blind man, native of Habersham county, the original 10-acre site upon which Ellijay was located.

The tract was in land lot 62, 11th district, 2nd section. He reserved for himself one front lot, which is now occupied by the Ellijay Hardware & Furniture company. The rest of the acreage he donated to the people. The tract has been described as extending approximately from the Perry home on the west and the new Holt store and Poley Rackley's place eastward. North and south it would embrace a like distance. To some of us, this area does not seem to contain 10 acres.

The inferior court accepted the offer, then ran off the boundaries of the exact 10 acres they chose for their use. They also designated as the center of the plot the small area still reserved for a park in the heart of Ellijay today.

Clemonds Quillian, having procured a compass, proceeded with further surveying, and was assisted by Benjamin Griffith, maternal grandfather of William Ellington II. Coke Ellington, father of the same William Ellington, helped clear away the bushes, largely white oak, from the new county site.

A further statement on this subject was published locally Nov. 25, 1948. "The original survey of Ellijay contained 10 acres and was square in shape. A second survey included several blocks surrounding the original tract. No plat of this area has been found.

"A Weir and Hartford survey, beginning with the old county jail site immediately north of the new Telephone building on Dalton street and running north and east likewise is still unplotted."

The public square of the new town was designed to contain one acre. The remaining nine acres was to be laid off in streets and twenty town lots. The proceeds from the sale of nineteen of these lots was all the means the new county had for building a courthouse, a jail and for other expenses.

After the survey, the inferior court announced the day of sale of the lots, with other information, in the Western Herald, a small newspaper published at Knucklesville (now Auraria), in Lumpkin County, by C. P. Shaw and A. G. Fambrough, who was editor. The sale came off the following June 1833. A considerable crowd attended it. B. B. Quillian was auctioneer of the day. The people showed their confidence in the future of Ellijay by buying lots briskly. None of the front lots brought less than $300, and a few probably went moderately above that sum.

Another gain came to the County in 1833 when taxes returned on property within the new Gilmer before Cherokee County was divided were paid to Gilmer.

The first white settlers of Gilmer County came in by Virginia and North Carolina, with a sprinkling from counties lower in latitude, but in north Georgia. They were European in origin, mainly from England, Scotland, and north Ireland, with a scattering few Huguenot French. Frequent blue eyes and fair hair and complexion show a close relationship to those Teutonic tribes that migrated from northern Germany and Denmark into England and became the dominant element of the Anglo-Saxons there. Their face and figure show close relationship not only to Danes and Germans, but to the Dutch, Norwegians, Swedes as well as English, Irish, and Scotch. The Cherokee Indian race made its slight contribution. A few negro slaves, brought in early in the history of the County, have left a few scattered descendants. But the Negro has been but a negligible portion of the County's racial rootstock.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Pioneer Custom

We turn now from social organization to economic life and social usage. Indian cabins, or huts, served as the first houses for the white settlers. But as the white population grew, domiciles of the kind were increasingly hard to find. William Ellington lived at two different times in an Indian cabin. Joe Newberry remembered occupying one.

After Gilmer County was surveyed and its lots drawn, the great body of its population came into it in regular, legal order. Some, however, if unable to buy a lot, moved in and became what was known as a squatter. An old law of peaceable possession for seven years gave to the squatter a permanent title. Squatting, while dishonorable, was tolerated in a sparsely settled pioneer country with plenty of cheap, unoccupied land. After a time the old law relating to squatters was changed, and for quite a while lawsuits over squatter titles were coming up in the courts of the County.

A man who planned to build a pioneer cabin felled and "snaked" to his cabin site a lot of round logs. It was then also common to have a "working," a communal custom of neighborhood help with tasks too urgent or burdensome for the individual. While the labor was free, the recipient was expected to supply his fellow helpers with plenty of food. A convivial jug was sometimes included in the refreshments, and kept handy to workers.

Favorite items of the dinner included dishes undoubtedly very old and in cases, of European origin: Pickled beans, chopped kraut, beans dried pod and all (leatherbritches); apples, berries, peaches dried, smoked and canned; white and sweet potatoes, if the section is not too cool for the sweet; sorghum (after the middle 1850's), honey, whole-grain hominy; corn, wheat and occasional rye bread, fish (seldom in winter); quail, grouse, wild pigeon (first fifteen years, especially), wild turkey, bear, venison, squirrel, rabbit; mutton, an occasional goat, some beef, too much pork and sausage; eggs, butter, chicken (mostly fried and boiled with dumplings), milk, cabbage, turnips, tomatoes, beans, and a few other fresh garden vegetables and green tops of mustard and turnip. Coffee, sugar, rice and some dyes were among articles that came from as far away as Augusta, Ga. and Charleston, S. C.

Such constituted food standbys. We omit many foods and drinks common everywhere that might greet and sustain the afternoon relay of labor and be spread again for supper. I had the personal experience of attending such an occasion, the last of boyhood days in the hills, a land-clearing given by George Frady. While the jug was lacking, the food was good and plentiful. We stayed for supper.

The man of the buckskin period who had a big hewed-log house with upstairs was among the best livers of the land. About the premises were the usual primitive necessaries—the axe, the rifle and the loom, to feed which the farmer sheared the wool from the backs of his own sheep and spun it before weaving it into clothes for the family. Cloth was dyed with walnut hulls and roots, madder, indigo, copperas, and turkey red. Underwear and hose were usually of homespun woolens. Alder twigs were sometimes added to walnut-hull dye.

To make shoes for the family, the householder took to a tanyard dry hides and had them tanned (if he did not himself keep a tanning vat), often for a portion of the finished leather. Many men of those days knew how to

make shoes. There were regular shoemakers about the land also. Hatters, tailors and blacksmiths were as familiar. Callaway Whisenant,* Ben Shepard and Ben Warren were hatters of the old days. John D. Nelson, as elsewhere noted, was an expert gunmaker. Tickanetley once had a gun manufactory also.

Woolen linsey was worn by the women and girls. Such dresses were sometimes seen till a generation ago, about the opening of this century. During early days a calico dress was something to be proud of. Material for making it had to be imported from a great distance, and so it was something of a distinction to have one. Boys often had shirts of this material. Men and boys wore homespun jeans suits. These were usually brown, sometimes a dull blue, which seemed to fade out and run easier.

In addition to his rifle, the early hunter was provided with a butcher knife carried in a scabbard on a belt. The rifles were long, with a stock that reached the muzzle. Such rifles shot to the mark, or a man could adapt himself by learning the slight variation in accuracy of his particular gun. For a long time there were no revolvers among the pioneers. The first pistols that came in were often cap and ball and shot but one time.

At no age have young people, with their irrepressible, romance-loving spirits, been thwarted in their desire to cultivate friendships that might lead to love and marriage. They had their fun and pastime in pioneer days. But two factors limited their capacity to see each other. One was almost incessant toil, the other the puritanic attitude toward leisure and enjoyment. They met at school, religious meetings, assembled to sing old love songs. Twistification or some such game might take the place of dancing. Dancing, however, had its place. It was conducted after the Virginia-reel character, with set-callers, musicians and singing often interspersed. A variant of this was called "the North Carolina dance." Candy pullings and knockings, singings for all ages, visiting all had a place, but calls were very informal and simply conducted. They were confined largely to Sunday, which the young people also found the best time for the nurture of attachments between the sexes that led to marriages.

The husking bee has proved a tenacious practice, though no one ever calls it that. Its north Georgia name is corn shucking. A man who had gathered his dry corn in the fall invited his neighbors to help him husk, or shuck, it. To decline the invitation was a social error. The girls and women came along. They sometimes shucked, though they might help cook or quilt while the shucking went on. Here was another opportunity to develop romances—here and at the frolic that often came in the evening in spite of the busy day husking corn. This custom, much as in pioneer days, probably survives in a few remoter communities. As with the working in general, here the host supplied plenty of food and drink.

Hunting and fishing served the double purpose of pastime and supplying meat. Venison was once more common than beefsteak.

At wedding parties dancing was not general. But at regular frolics the young people danced long, often all night, to the fiddle and, later, the banjo. The accordion was known and used on some occasions. The drum was most frequently used on marches and drills out of doors. The fife was a favorite instrument. For a good while after their introduction banjoes were poorly played.

Besides the abundance of game and fish the pioneer inherited from the Indian, he received cleared land upon which to produce corn, beans, pumpkins, and other yields the Indians had enjoyed, with the addition of new crops introduced by the white settler—a practice still going on. Wild communal woods

*Whisenant Mountain, in the Mountaintown district, was named for his family.

produced chestnuts, grapes and berries. The Indians had their bean and green corn dances. Before partaking of a new crop of these staple foods, the red man was supposed first to show his gratitude by participating in these festivities. The white man enriched the native varieties of fruit trees, shrubs, flowers, field crops, and garden vegetables.

Early sports, as well as foods, were deeply influenced by the customs of the Indians. The dance was among these.

By describing a dance as dances went about 1874, we can get a fair idea of all the dances of Gilmer County of this period. A suitable building was at Buckhorn. A store was in one room, another served the dancers. Buckets of water were kept handy in the tidied room.

One favorite dance was known as "Charley." Dancers chose partners. Then all rose, a line of girls on one side of the room, a line of boys opposite and facing the girls. Bud Sellers generally called, "Swing!" The first, or head, couple swung round each other once, then danced down between the lines. This was continued till the girl had danced down this space with every boy and the young man first to dance had done the same by every girl. Then followed the next couple. All sang as they went. One song used was itself called Charley and ran:

Oh Charley, he's a good old soul,
Oh Charley, he's a dandy -
Oh Charley, he's the very lad
That drunk up Roper's brandy.
Over the river to feed my sheep
And to measure up my barley;
I must have some of that good old rye
To bake that cake for Charley.
As he sailed out the chimney top
Liza went out the winder;
He fell down and broke his neck,
And Liza sprained her finger.
Oh Charley, he's a good old soul,
Oh Charley, he's a dandy;
Oh Charley, he's the very lad
That treats the girls on candy.

A phase of the Virginia Reel was known as the Heel and Toe Dance. Before the dance began two competent judges were selected to judge of the merits and skill of the respective dancers. The young people formed a long line, single file, near the wall. At a signal, all started round the room alternately striking heel and toe upon the floor. They made one or two circuits before stopping to rest. Persons acquainted with folk customs say this was a difficult feat.

During pauses in the course of a dance the participants joked, told tales, chose their own subject of conversation, drank water, and lunched on ginger cakes and pie. The host offered some simple treat such as apples to the fiddlers at midnight. Sam Holt sometimes gave apples to everybody when the dance was at his house. Crowds came in horse and ox wagons for long distances. Straw piled in the wagon bed was sufficient for seats. The animals and vehicles stayed around till the dance broke up, which was often daylight next morning. Each young man was supposed to pay a dollar and bring a girl.

Chief among fiddlers of northern Gilmer were Allen Sisson,* Dick Sisson, Jack Dodd (brought up by the Sissons), some of whom indulged in the double shuffle dance themselves. "Aunt" Sarah Jackson was a jig dancer. Often older

*The Sissons were the most musical family in the County's history.

members of a dancing party waited outside the dance room till the younger folk took a recess, when in they filed for their turn at entertaining the crowd. Fiddlers got five dollars a night. Ira Sisson, foremost among musicians, during his residence in Gilmer, was apt to be there with his beloved fiddle. Accordion music was sometimes heard. A Negro banjoist from Mountaintown sometimes showed up to take a part.

The May Ramble

The "May Ramble" was a custom apparently handed down. It was a mixture of romancing, mountain climbing and worship, for those who cared for it, in scenic surroundings. We hear of a meeting to be held the fourth Sunday in May 1896. The occasion was thus set late enough in the spring (which was known to be reluctant to climb the mountain) for the charms of the season to be well awakened to match the wonder of the scenery beyond the mountain.

The meetings, conducted out of doors, consisted of singing and speaking. The crowd assembled high on the mountain where awesome views spread far northward to the dim horizon. The idea embraced the love-yearnings of spring blended with striking scenery, the spoken word and the musical note, all turned to awake a worshipful attitude.

Here is the announcement for 1900: "We are anticipating the pleasure of a May ramble on the summit of Flat Mountain the fourth Sunday in May. Preachers of all denominations are cordially invited. Come one, come all—come at the Savior's call, and let us go upon an exceeding high mountain and pray."

In 1904 there was another ramble. The news of it comes from Cash's Valley, while that community had its own post office called Ai. In 1906 still another ramble is promised for the same Sunday in May and the speaker announced for the day was Rev. A. M. Johnson, a Baptist minister of East Ellijay. "Everybody is invited to go. Come one, come all. Let us go up on the exceeding high mountain to pray."

Still another such meeting was announced for 1908. But it was shifted from the top of Flat Mountain to a point "on top of the Blue Ridge between the Hatley Gap and the McKinney Cove." The time was the same. The urge to "come one, come all," was also added to this announcement.

After that we hear no more of the custom. But its beginning must be hidden in the historic past of our people. Celestine Sibley of the Atlanta Constitution and the magazine published by the Constitution and the Atlanta Journal reports that she has heard of the custom with the same name in the mountains of East Tennessee. The Tennesseans, however, seem to have omitted worship from their rambles.

The fro preceded the saw. It consisted of a crude blade with a hole, of one piece with the blade, at one end. Into this fitted a handle about two feet long. This blade was set so as to split off a board from a thicker block of wood. It was then struck on the back with a mallet.

That started the fro. It was then moved down as the handle was forced up or down so as to split the timber. This was known as riving boards. And many a house was covered with those boards, which, if good heart timber, might last for years.

For a long time hewing took the place of sawing. A man hewed his logs into shape instead of sawing them to dimensions. He had a special axe for hewing. This was known as a broad axe because it was much broader of blade than the ordinary axe.

Finally lumber cut by saws was brought in. Then saws began to appear. They were made of steel and were operated either by the muscle of sturdy men or by water power. They moved back and forth or "up and down," as did that of John W. Duckett which began at the dam at East Ellijay Aug. 1, 1883.

Such mechanical geniuses as Duckett spread knowledge of the sawmill and how to set one up and operate it. These early mills were known as "sash" mills, probably a colloquialism for "slash." But Duckett was quick to adopt advanced ideas. He kept in touch with the old E. Van Winkle machine shops in Atlanta for improved ideas.

The first circular saw ever used in the County was said to have been introduced by a man named Mainland, who cut walnut logs only and procured those from Walnut mountain, in the Turniptown section. This must have been around 1880. The pioneers had found so much timber of the kind on this mountain they had named it Walnut.

Mainland was probably the first man to take up walnut stumps and ship them away for veneering. Mainland Holt was named for this man.

On account of the vast forest areas of the County, Ellijay, near its geographical center, has always had the latest ideas in sawmilling. And much of this progressive knowledge has spread out to the more distant sections.

Sawmills powered by steam were occasionally moved about the County before the Civil War. The war set this form of progress, along with many other forms, very much back on their haunches. But finally came the bandsaw. This was not only a quick way to cut a log: it cut right through the biggest sticks of timber. There was no bogging down in the huge logs found in many of the forests primeval.

Long before the close of the last century the "circle" saw had reached the wildest, roughest areas and had begun proving a factor in slashing out—often recklessly—our fine timber reserves. But foolishly started fires destroyed even more, and started erosion. But it has long been noted that the Coosawattee is one of the largest streams in this section of the country to run clear except during rains and freshets.

One of the improvements initiated, in connection with sawmilling at Ellijay, was the improved drying kiln. This was said to have been during the period of lumber operations at that place of a Mr. Stanton. His firm finally became the Stanton-Field company and that company, in turn, merged with Shippen Brothers, May 26, 1905. The builder of the new-fangled affair was a man named Ketcham.

Upon completing his furnace, the intrepid Ketcham tautened natives by preparing to put fire under his lumber to dry it out. He piled in two or three truckloads of shavings and five gallons of kerosene, which combination of fuel he then dramatically set afire—without an explosion or damage from the fire.

Mr. Ketcham convinced eager onlookers that his fire was controlled fire.

Stanton was said to have set up and used the first band saw in the County. He also established the first veneer mill, it has been stated by contemporaries.

A notable addition to the food crops of Gilmer was made in the 1850's. A stranger driving a little one-horse wagon appeared on the streets of Ellijay and offered for sale the first sorghum cane seed ever introduced to our people. He called it "Chinese Sugar Cane." He told his tale of the possibilities of this new crop, which, he averred, would grow to maturity, head into seed and become all sun-ripened for harvest and the extraction of its sugary juice in a single summer season. His hearers were incredulous. Perhaps some of them already

knew that sugar cane, even in south Georgia, failed to mature to heads in a single season.

A rough, drunken mob collected around his little wagon and derided him and called him a humbug. General Hansell came by, at the noon hour of the court then in session. He defended the humble peddler and vouched for his product. A scramble for the seed, at ten cents a bunch, followed. Sorghum has been grown here ever since. People can grow it and make it into syrup by a public highway. Travelers will stop and buy his whole crop.

But this first cane fell down in the field too easily, and was gradually superseded by Honey Drip, Texas Ribbon, Sumac, Blue Ribbon and other species. We notice Sarf, Tracy and Texas Seeded are offered for sale now.

Coke Ellington and Stephen Griffith made a wooden mill to crush the stalks and extract the juice—a process called grinding. This was the first sorghum mill operated in the bounds of Gilmer County. It is sometimes cultivated for hay, but is here raised almost entirely for syrup. When this is boiled and cooked and properly skimmed, it develops a remarkably ripe, delicious flavor. The syrup from some cane is quite red; while from another species, golden or a light honey shade. The red cane seems to stand up well against wind.

The juice was at first boiled in cast iron wash pots and kettles, and was sweet and good enough in flavor, but blackened the teeth. The primitive methods of grinding the cane in wooden mills and of boiling the juice in kettles continued up to and during the Civil War. These early mills, being without guards about their rollers to protect persons "feeding" them, were constantly threatening to mangle hands and arms. It was common to hear of someone's having a hand or an arm thus crushed. This has been true almost to the present time. Elias Clayton was the victim of such an accident, having lost an arm almost to the shoulder.

Cast iron sorghum mills and evaporating pans of iron and copper did not begin to appear till 1866. Major Frank Williams brought in the first of the new syrup-making outfits which displaced the cruder old apparatus.

The new syrup took rapidly with people who had to depend for sweets upon honey and "nigger heel" black molasses that sold for about fifty cents a gallon. Captain Jim Cody, coming into Ellijay soon after sampling his first of the new syrup, declared with enthusiasm it was the next best thing to religion.

But the word, evaporator, for quite a while, proved a sort of shibboleth for rural folk. Some called it an "efficator," others a "volerator," a few having it a "flumigator." One thick-tongued old fellow on Boardtown Creek called it an "evivatus." The evaporating process also became the symbol of what was transient and temporary. An old observer of tumultuous enthusiasm and fervor in a rural revival remarked,

"All this tumult and shouting will soon p'vaporate."

The ancient flail was often used by the pioneer in threshing grain. This was a green pole of tough, fibrous wood battered soft near the larger end. This yielding place added force to the blows struck by the farmer as he flailed the heads in which the grain grew. For those out of reach of threshers or with small crops of grain, this custom has persisted to modern times. It is bitter toil and a very slow process.

The "groundhog" type of thresher was operating during the 1870's. One type was the Baltimore Shaker, of about the same date. The more modern kind,

operated by horse and steam power came in long before the close of the past century. In the early 1880's, when the thresher came into a community, about all the boys in school who were large enough to help with it dropped out of school for that purpose. Jack Dooley just about lost a school that way once. There was a sort of communal arrangement whereby neighbors more or less pooled labor till the threshing season was over.

Indians transferred some of their knowledge of foods to white men. They made of beaten corn, pounded often with a pestle, connehaney. From beans they prepared a popular dumpling.

Pioneer whites made persimmon beer, utilizing some of the abundant sugar in the wild persimmon. They prepared and dried cakes of the fruit for use at any season. But the pioneer did not consume much light wines and beers. He liked whiskey and brandy better. A few people guarded the secret of making apple wine. Other milder beverages might have been common if the people had been skilled in their manufacture as they were in the production of drinks of greater alcoholic content. It should be said, in sincerity, that drunkenness and public drinking, from far back in the County's history, have been more or less frowned upon by a substantial element of our population. Gilmer County people are, be it remembered, deeply puritanic and hold much ingrained ideas of strictness, duty and honor in this as in many other matters. In spite of apparent lapses and even recessions, the spirit of temperance reasserts its valor from generation to generation. As we close this volume the County is on a high tide of temperance and prosperity.

In consideration of transportation, vehicles and roadways, we might mention first the immemorial trails of Indians that traced the County. These followed still more ancient tracks of wild and domestic beasts that have an instinct for good routes. The white man usually found it wise to follow these. And modern highways, to a large extent, track the same traces.

But such passways were too narrow to permit ordinary carts and wagons of the time to get by. White immigrants, entering by these, often had to scalp, dig and broaden the way. A pioneer young man, driving thither on a tall two-wheeled cart, had withed down the cart bed to the tongue of the vehicle. This left the bed high and precarious. A negro man named Noble was traveling afoot, while a negro woman named Bet, an ebon baby in her arms, sat serenely aloft in the cart bed. The cart, suddenly lurching up the steep far side of a creek, broke the withe. The woman and the baby tumbled backward into the creek. A hasty examination and quick rescue was made. Though a combination of shock and fear had knocked the breath out of both, they were otherwise uninjured.

Some difficulties of early travel are described: "In 1838 from Rock Spring in Murray county to Ellijay, there was only* a bridle way through the mountains; and, on the Murray side where I lived, not a human habitation for seventeen miles appeared. Panthers, bears, wolves, and other wild beasts roamed these wilds. Early settlers drove their livestock, in the spring of the year, out onto the ranges. The grass and the peavine were succulent and nourishing. The stock got sleek and fat during the summer.

"On some level place, from a fallen tree, a hollow was chipped in the top of a log. This was called a lick log. Salt was placed in the hollow for the stock. Once a week or so pioneers went to the mountains to salt their stock at the 'lick'. Here the horses and cattle gathered at nightfall as if about the familiar

*Quoted from William J. Cotter.

bars at home. This was the centre of the circle of their day-long wanderings. The horn, voice or bell of their master often signalled them in to this focal point.

"When attacked by wild beasts, the cattle made terrific defense. The bleating of a young calf or similar alarm might in a moment rouse the whole herd. Gentle milk cows and patient oxen accustomed to the yoke, with hair raised, broke into the insane fury of a stampede. All of them, bellowing and blowing, fought as recklessly as mad bulls. They thus resisted such savage foes as wolf packs and enemies even larger and more dangerous.

"Horses did not defend themselves so well. Their worst enemy was a panther crouched upon a tree, from which it might spring upon some unsuspecting animal passing below. (Some pioneers were warned by the falling of fine bark upon them just underneath such a creature.) Colts especially were the objects of such attacks. Many a time, upon horses that had run away and survived such seizures, I have seen scars of panther claws."

On November 30, 1838 Mr. Cotter, on horseback, crossed eastward through the Cohutta Mountains to Ellijay, thence northward along what is now the Boardtown road to the home of James Kell. Next morning, in setting out for home again, he got directions from Mr. Kell on a nearer route through toward the Newhope Church community. By going by a certain licklog he could save five miles. But ranging too far north, he wandered among a maze of stock trails, crisscrossed and confusing. The day was cloudy. He could not tell directions, became "turned around" and finally lost.

The sky, having cleared just before sunset, helped him little as the sun seemed to be setting in the east. Just at night, he came upon a high mountain over which a cyclone, some years before, had flattened practically every tree. The rich ground was luxuriantly overgrown with ranks bushes, vines, and other tangle, rendering even slow travel difficult. Old logs fifty feet long had been turned over by bears prowling for worms and insects.

The lone traveler, bearing down a dismal ravine, found Big Mountaintown Creek. He crossed that afoot, leading his horse. By this time he could not see his hand before him. After a search lasting some two hours (with the cry of night birds and wild beasts in his ear) he fumbled out a place that felt level. He dismounted, made a pillow of his saddle, wrapped his feet in his saddle blanket, his body in his overcoat; and finally, his bridle rein in his hand, managed to go to sleep.

Except for wild deer, which were promptly frightened by his horse and scampered away, there was no particular disturbance during the night.

A trade route from Charleston connected the inland Indian country with that city. Other roads of a kind far preceded white settlement of Gilmer. As far back as 1731 a "Road to Virginia" passed eastward from Carter's Quarters and so penetrated old Gilmer. A road between Augusta and the Indian country dated back to 1739—some say 1736. This road was described as "made so that a horseman can now ride from Augusta to the Cherokee Indians." Another road to Ross' Landing was built in 1838, probably for the purpose of facilitating Indian removal. A road projected to extend from Dahlonega, by way of Ellijay, to the Tennessee line was started in 1834. Michael Smith, Richard Bearden of Lumpkin County and Samuel Jones, Joseph Clayton of Gilmer and James McGhee of Murray were appointed commissioners to build it. The road, after leaving Ellijay, met the Federal Road and penetrated Murray County between Sumach Creek and Coosawattee River. For its construction $10,000 was appropriated by the State.

A legislative act of December 20, 1834, established a turnpike road (with conditions for constructing and maintaining the same) from Dahlonega, by way of Ellijay, to the Tennessee line, so as to intersect the old Federal Road "at or near where said road crosses the State line." Clement Quillian, John Choice, James Edwinson were commissioners.

Benjamin L. Goodman and John Clark were incorporated for twenty-two years and created a body politic by the name and style, "The Ellijay Turnpike Company." The road had to be suitable to wagons and opened in twelve months, kept in repair, with two toll gates (later three) in Gilmer. Intra-Gilmer traffic was not charged for using the road.

The following rates were charged non-residents and Gilmer people going out of, and back into, the County:

Each loaded wagon, team and driver	$1.00	
Each empty wagon, team and driver	.50	cents
Each four-wheel pleasure carriage	.50	cents
Each two-wheel pleasure carriage	.25	cents
For each four-wheeled wagon, cart, or carriage of any description not above described, and drawn by two horses, if loaded	.50	cents
Charge for the same empty	.25	cents
All oxcarts, team, and driver, if drawn by less than four oxen	.25	cents
Each man and horse	.12½	cents
Each head of neat (real) cattle	3	cents
Each head of hogs, sheep, or goats	2	cents
Each footman	6¼	cents

The old records of the inferior court in Ellijay tell how road after road was first sighted (or scouted) out, then reported by the scouting committee and finally acted upon by the court.

The court attacked their problems with due regard for what had already been done. The principal travel routes, in the main, drove north toward Tennessee and North Carolina, in direct contact with which sections we began our existence; eastward toward Dahlonega and points beyond; westward toward a pass in the difficult Cohutta mountains; and southward toward Cartersville and Rome, a fairly easy section to traverse except for some large rivers.

All newer roads mainly branched off from these or started at Ellijay, supplementing the embryonic start of our modern "road system."

At the time of the land lot survey of Gilmer County in 1832 a road of a kind, called the Ellijay Road ran into the old Federal road on land lot 83, which joins 98 on the east. This was a little more than half a mile west of the mouth of Talona creek. All along here the Federal Road kept south of Talking Rock creek.

Our inferior court appointed, March 15, 1839, to make a better connection with this important road, James Simmons, Jonas Denton and John S. James. These commissioners were to "make the road permanent."

But, even earlier, March 4, 1839, M. Charles, Asa Johnson and William Evarts had been appointed to "review and mark out" a road down Town Creek designed to intersect the Federal Road at or near Sanders Town.

In 1840 a road was ordered laid out to Sanders' old store on the Federal Road.

The drive in road building eastward was well begun by 1834. It traversed a virtual wilderness, with important rivers to cross, to connect road facilities. The

Dahlonega road was designed to pass through Ellijay and continue to Dalton by a turnpike road that entered the Cohutta range at Locust Gap and followed down Holly Creek. This road is now little used. The new road across the Cohuttas passes several miles south of the old turnpike and runs east and west, with the purpose of reaching Chatsworth and Dalton.

The court early in 1839 attacked the problem of constructing a road through Tickanetley. This road was meant to give access to the Dahlonega road in Cartecay district. But it was also designed to continue on to Sanderstown on the old Federal road. Also, continuing northeastward and in the opposite direction, the road drove for Blairsville and beyond.

Joe Newberry remembered the coming of the first oxcart (a two-wheeled vehicle) by this road, if road it could be called. He and other children climbed fences to watch this new wonder of transportation lump slowly by.

On March 4, 1839, the same court established upper Mountaintown road. This was a route that supplemented the turnpike road. By branching at the home of Thomas Plemmons this road gave ingress and egress to people more directly north. But it continued more directly north and west and finally merged with the old turnpike.

Thomas Plemmons, William Carroll and Nicholas Osborn were commissioned to sight out and establish this road. It began at the home of Jonathon Cox and went, at first, to the home of George Brock. This is rural route One now.

On May 28, 1838, William Moore, James Cody and Alexander Kell were appointed to "mark out" the Boardtown road, beginning at Ellijay. This way drove north by sections as needs for it demanded. By the time white settlers arrived around the Copper Hill area (or basin), around 1838, the road was far on its way. Called the Boardtown road all the way to the Ocoee river, it connected our community with that important approach to Tennessee a year or so later.

This highway (but not so spoken of in those early days) ran by Santa Luca post office, Buckhorn, Chestnut Gap, thence by Lebanon and Mobile churches. It crossed the Ocoee river at the Rogers Ferry site. It followed, with little variation, the latest road survey and construction through modern Gilmer by way of Boardtown.

On Jan. 4, 1842, a road was authorized and ordered to utilize a state route and follow it out west of the Ellijay (later the Coosawattee) river and by the Densmore Trail to Coosawattee Old Town, site of the new dam construction at what is now generally known as Carter's.

In 1849 Ellijay boasted roads to Spring Place, Cohutta Springs (farther north), Blairsville, north and east; Amicalola (more directly east), and another that went south following down Wild Cat creek and keeping on the east side of the stream into what is now Pickens county.

Another turnpike company also boosted road construction. This was the Ellijay Turnpike company organized Feb. 23, 1850. It was scheduled to follow a northerly course from Ellijay to North Carolina. From Ellijay it was to continue southward to the Federal road in Cass (now Gordon) county "by the best route." Capital stock was set at $10,000. The enterprise was directed by Benjamin Johnson, John Parks, William Kelley, Davis Collens, Robert Kercado. Toll gates were established, and at each the following charges were imposed:

For each 5 or 6 horse or ox wagon	60 cents
Each 4 horse or ox wagon	50 cents
Each 2 horse or ox wagon	25 cents

Each one horse or ox wagon	15 cents
All 2-horse 4-wheeled pleasure carriages	50 cents
If such vehicle is drawn by one horse	30 cents
Each man and horse	10 cents
Each head of horses, mules or asses, led or driven	05 cents
Each head of cattle	02 cents
Hogs, sheep, goats, each	01 cents

Note that since 1834 the method of counting money has changed from the dollar and fractions of it to the decimal in all counts.

In the case of the new toll road, no Gilmer citizen paid to use it.

Until about 1854 Copper Hill's copper ore was transported picturesquely and most ruggedly by mule packs, carts and wagons along this old road. This stream of traffic, upon approaching Ellijay, turned up Cox Mill creek and headed for Dalton—still 40 miles away. The difficulties still awaiting pack trains through the Cohutta mountains could hardly be described.

Gilmer roads in 1860 have been listed as follows: one northeast to Murphy, North Carolina; one east and northeast to Blairsville; one east and southeast to Dahlonega; one south to the Old Federal Road, entering that road two miles west of Talking Rock; another south and west to Coosawattee Old Town; another west and slightly north to Spring Place and Dalton.

After the Federal Road* left Tate (Harnageville), on its southerly course, it turned much south of east and crossed Etowah river at a huge bend of the stream just inside Forsyth county at a place called Hightower.

An example will illustrate the intense spirit of pioneers, isolated from travel ways, to break out and help themselves, in the fight to gain roads.

J. H. (Duck) Ray, Lish Stanley and Rick Stanley, all living about the mouth of Big creek, determined to obtain a road from their homes in Fannin county by going west through Allen Gap at the northern foot of Cole mountain into Gilmer County.

A mere trail a man might ride with a horse led to the distant town of Blue Ridge. To reach Ellijay, it was necessary to go clear by Morganton, thence to Blue Ridge, then south 16 miles; an alternate route, most rugged, was up Big Creek, across the Blue Ridge and thence to Ellijay a distance of more than 30 miles.

Mr. Ray and "Uncle Rick" Stanley talked over their problem of getting out directly west by Allen Gap. They went to Ellijay and talked to J. C. Allen, then Ordinary of Gilmer County. Judge Allen told the two men and others who had joined in their petition that if they would shape the road from the mouth of Big Creek four miles westward sufficiently well for a reasonably loaded market wagon to pass over it, he would act for Gilmer County and put hands on it and maintain it thereafter as a public road.

The prime movers for the new road were delighted. They went home and immediately circulated among their neighbors papers upon which they signed their pledge of labor upon the road. Each signer put down the number of days he could be expected to work and with what tools he expected to work. They then set a day to begin work.

*This road, originally the outcome of a treaty of October 20, 1803, opened in 1804, according to Jeremiah Evarts, corresponding secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions that sponsored Taloney Mission. It went down Talking Rock creek, a turbulent stream known in 1832 as "The Devil's Race Track."

It was fine, bracing fall weather. In the direct words of Mr. Ray, "Some of our men went ahead of the rest of us, that first day we worked at our road. Without a single instrument, they sighted out our road route. Some chopped out the right of way. The rich land was a mass and tangle of luxuriant growth—some of it big chestnut and oak trees. Some men dug. We had no dynamite or blasting powder; no other modern tools or conveniences. It was all direct, sweaty toil. We had some big heavy sledge hammers, and with these we busted up such big rocks as we could not prize aside.

"It took us six weeks to reach Allen Gap, where Rock creek rises and flows wildly westward. We followed the course of this stream, fording it often. After we got into Gilmer county I cut my foot and was partially disabled, but not enough to lose interest in our road. Most of our hands that had started with us on the road had lagged or fallen out entirely under the hardships and for various other reasons and excuses.

"To all of us of the vanguard, the outlook for our cherished project was dismal. Was the whole plan after all to collapse, the last link never to be joined? Me and Rick and Lish Stanley still craved to put it over. But how? Nobody had an answer. Uncle Rick, as he toiled toward the close, or cheered others, occasionally looked thoughtfully about and up at the trees.

"Ever since this road work began all of us had been noticing the abundance of wild squirrels about, running along logs and hopping in trees. Finally, they gave Rick Stanley a rousing idea."

"Boys," said Mr. Stanley with conviction. "Let's put these squirrels to work."

The plan grew," continued Mr. Ray. "On Friday evening and Saturday morning early we sent men with guns into the woods round about. A steady roar of guns in the hands of skilled marksmen brought the squirrels plopping to the ground. Meantime I had mounted a mule and rounded up men on Persimmon creek and through the Garland settlement, and all along the Garland mountain. I told everybody we'd have a barbecue. I invited the women and the girls too.

"On Saturday morning the women and girls came in. They brought pots, pans and other supplies. The hunters gathered in from the woods with more squirrels. Soon enough, under the eyes and the nimble hands of the women and girls there was spirited preparation of a meal by those well qualified in cooking game. Hot coffee gave to the atmosphere a homely aroma. New help on the road added the energy of 40 or more men and young fellows, which, along with the steady old hands, shot the whole project through with new life and vigor.

"That Saturday at noon we served dinner at a big bold spring near the Allen Patch. I don't remember how many squirrels we served. But we had all we needed, along with the coffee, cakes, custards and apple and pumpkin pies. We didn't finish our road that day. But this new spurt assured us of our goal.

"For before long we completed our road to old Billy Allen's place. From here the beginnings of a road led on down Rock Creek to Cherry Log, where travelers could strike a north-and-south road that led either to Morganton on the north or Ellijay and Cartersville southward. And the road junction was less than seven miles from our eating place.

"I was the first man to drive a wagon over the new road. Although it required pushing by four or five men, we did get the wagon with its contents to Allen Gap. Uncle Rick Stanley, glad-faced, came that far with me. Several other wagons followed on their way to Cartersville. Rough as our new road was, it was a lot better than no road.

"A singular barbecue gave it its final push."

As a tribute to the hardihood, energy and foresight of those people who opened this road, it should be added that the road is today passable and is a mail route regularly used.

Thus one after another of the ancient trails evolved into side roads and a few into modern highways. Though parts of the four principal highways radiating from Ellijay have been abandoned, in the main they track ancient passways.

Other important factors, besides roads, that influenced the location of homes were grazing, handy pure springs of water, tillable land (already cleared, to a large extent, and cultivated by Indian women), convenience to hunting privileges for game that was everybody's. A few people, fearing malaria and the miasmas of the lowlands, moved to lofty locations among the mountains. But they soon found about any Gilmer house site safe from flood waters is healthful.

Gilmer's most historic piece of early public road is no doubt that section of the "old Federal Road" which once traversed the County, west to east, in the extreme southern portion. It is said to have been built* in 1818 through the wilderness by Andrew Jackson and his military forces for transporting troops and supplies from Tennessee to lower Georgia. It is now mainly in Pickens county.

The patient and docile ox, partly because it fed itself by grazing on the indigenous growth already mentioned, was a standby for drawing carts, later succeeded by the wagon, and the pioneer plow. The ox was sure-footed and steady on rough ground. This beast of burden still presented, until the last few years, to modern Gilmer, a quaint picture linking us with the simple, hardy days gone by.

COVERED WAGONS

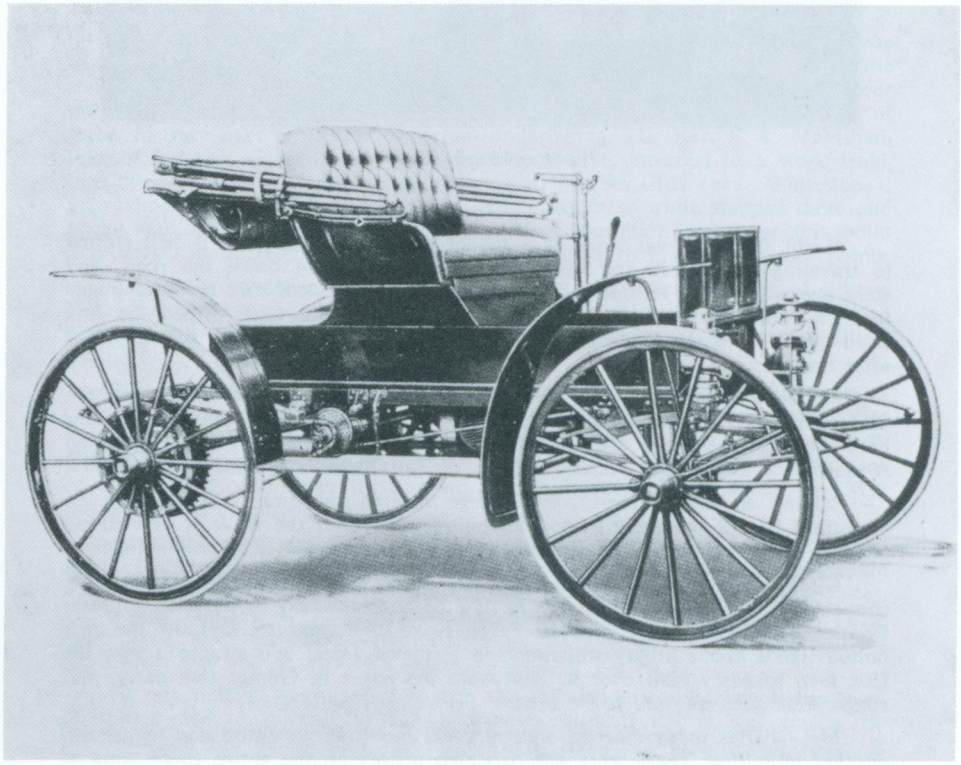
*It would probably be nearer correct to say he improved the road, which (for portions of the route, at least) had existed since 1804.

The mule and the horse then increased, being much preferred for their greater speed and endurance in the plow and wagon harness. Mules could also be used in hunting, for nearly all the mountains of the County, except for cliffs, may be traversed. Wagoners made what would still be considered, on modern roads, quite long journeys. Augusta was, at first, our nearest big market, and among early articles that had been imported from there and sold, even among the Indians were shawls, handkerchiefs and cambric. But, with the rise of Dahlonega, Cartersville, Rome and Atlanta (without listing Charleston, Cleveland, Chattanooga and Ducktown, beyond the borders of Georgia), trade with that, even now, distant city declined.

Thirty-five years ago living men could recall the coming of the buggy and the first three men of the County to acquire one.

The coming of the automobile worked the usual revolution. It links us with modern life and progress. Dr. N. C. Goss first tried the "horseless carriage," which, ahead of good roads, struck mud and water so thick it was found impracticable and its use was suspended. This was in 1910 or '11.

A



The First Automobile Used in the County. It was called an Auto Buggy, and was Given a Trial on Gilmer Roads by Dr. N. C. Goss.
The Illustration, A, above was furnished by Sears, Roebuck & Company, and shows the Design of the Vehicle. B(shown on page 80) shows the Auto Buggy with passengers including the Mustached Dr. Goss at the Front.

The Auto-Buggy Loaded

"Lish" Chastain was teaching a school at Clear Creek when it first started to traveling round. He and his school heard it coming down the road, and went out to look the strange contraption over. Doctor Goss sold his auto buggy to E. K. Lazenby, who lived out of the County. Doctor Goss owned the first Ford operated in the County. He moved to Ellijay in 1913 and got the Ford after that.

An early stage and mail line made round trips once a week between Ellijay and Cartersville, Cassville being also served by similar facilities. Another line, between Dahlonega and Dalton, passed through Gilmer by way of Ellijay. A mail route to Carter's Quarters, by way of Tails Creek was established in 1877.

"Going to the railroad," a privilege offered by such vehicles, was an important trip of the early days; and, many years after the M & N G railroad arrived, trips to Rome and Cartersville were often referred to in this manner.

Gilmer's oldest mail route, operated on a regular government contract, connected Ellijay and Dahlonega, having been established in July 1834. Jesse Charles (who came to Ellijay in February of that year to find all the rich bottom lands about Ellijay still much in primeval forest and swamp*) was the first man to carry mail over it. Few were the roads in Gilmer that early, and rough were such as were to be found.

Mr. Charles made the trip once a week, requiring an entire day to go and another to return. There were but two post offices on the entire route—one at the foot of the Amicalola mountains on the Ellijay side, the other on the east

*Where streams overflow or water wells up in contiguous springs. But Gilmer's underground water is nowhere channeled out in great springs as happens in regions more heavily permeated with lime.

side of the same mountains toward Dahlonega. James Charles was riding this mail the following February (1835) when "Cold Friday" caught him out and he almost froze to death.

Stage coach drivers of those early days announced their approach to a village by blowing a horn.

An early mail service operated between Ellijay and Morganton. This was an important connection because from Morganton service extended on to Blairsville and other important points north and east. By 1875, before there was any railroad, Joe Long was transporting mail "two or three times a week" between Ellijay and Cartersville. After mail for Morganton arrived by hack at Ellijay it lay over till next morning, when it was taken the rest of the way on horseback.

Long and painful preparations, numerous stalemates, breakdowns in management, and disrupted system preceded the coming of a railroad to Gilmer. The Ellijay Railroad Company was organized. Its purpose was to construct a railroad with a terminus at Marietta. William Cox, Benjamin Johnson, Watson B. Coleman of Ellijay were appointed to receive subscriptions for railroad stock. This was the beginning of what was jocularly known as the "Hook and Eye Division." Many difficulties in engineering had to be overcome.

In early December 1883 the Marietta & North Georgia Railroad, as it came to be called, in spite of every handicap and disheartening delay, penetrated the southern boundary of the County. It was our first railroad and has proved our only one. Since Gilmer already had a newspaper, we are able, in old files of these, to trace over again this important undertaking. The Rev. F. L. McMillan, late, of Smyrna, Georgia, drove the first locomotive, attached to a work train, into the County. He stopped at a place called Marble Cliff (near Whitestone), approximating the Pickens County line. All trains for a while stopped there and hacks and other means of conveyance and transportation met it at this point and carried mail, freight and passengers farther north to Ellijay and other points.

The road crawled along, eventually, to Cartecay River, in sight of Ellijay. Here the problem of an important bridge confronted the builders, delayed progress still further. This substantially traversed, trains rolled up to Ellijay station Dec. 2, 1884.

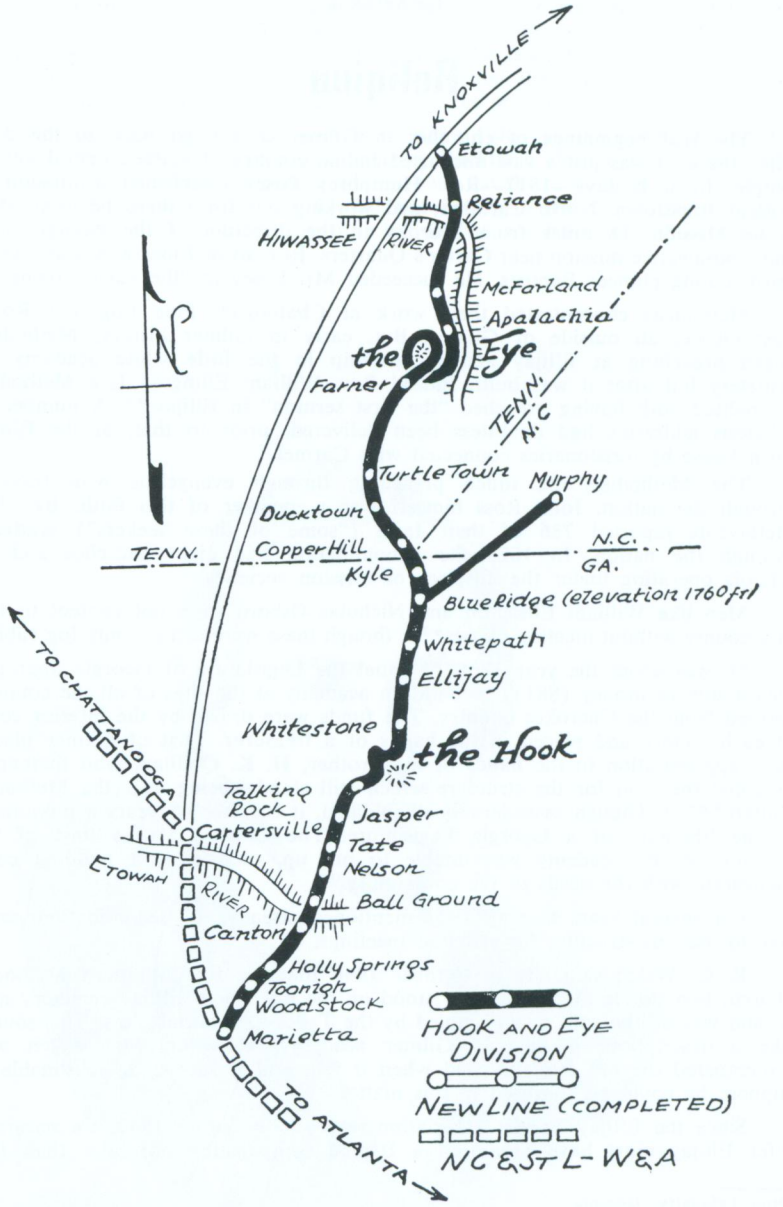
The first engineer to drive a passenger train into Ellijay was W. E. (Bill) Chester, who was a resident of Atlanta at the time of his death in 1957. He lived to be 94. The conductor of his train was Joe Glover, whose brother, J. B. Glover, was superintendent of the road. The fireman was Will Garland. One of the earliest of men to drive a work train in a similar manner was Will Barker, in the autumn of 1884.

A turntable was erected at Ellijay, and for more than a year trains turned there. The people of Gilmer, especially those north of Ellijay and in Fannin county, became restive because the railroad did not come their way faster. Hence on January 1, 1886, tracklaying from Ellijay northward began with appropriate and impressive ceremony. Some six months later it had crossed the Gilmer line and penetrated Fannin.

At one time it was planned to run the railroad directly through the town of Ellijay and northward through Boardtown district. But it was finally re-surveyed and run half a mile east of town. It has stuck to this new route. It traverses Towncreek, Ellijay and Cherry Log district. While the railroad was narrow-gauge, had at first but three small, slow, wood-burning engines (named, after a custom of the times, "Little Mary," "Jasper," and "Kimsey") with balloon-topped smokestacks, all of which equipment would now be relegated to a museum of antiquities, a pageant or comedy film, the road and its system

of operation were hailed as an epochal achievement and the momentous factor in community development that time has vindicated.

Practically every public-spirited person in Gilmer County contributed to its accomplishment as probably the most stupendous single fact of our material progress. Few communities in the history of this nation have devoted themselves as fully as did Gilmer folk to realize a railroad.



"HOOK & EYE"

The branch of the L & N Railroad running through Gilmer has been rather facetiously referred to as above, for which we are indebted to the Frank A. Munsey Company, Publishers, 280 Broadway, New York.

CHAPTER 8

Religion

The real beginnings of churches in Gilmer county go back to the days when the area was just a vast uncharted Indian country of scattered rural village people. In such days—1817—Rev. Humphrey Posey established a mission at present Brasstown, North Carolina; and working out from there he established Notle Mission, 18 miles from Murphy in the direction of the Georgia line, and Coosawattee mission near Carter's Quarters. Rev. Evan Jones was also a great spirit among pioneer Baptists. He succeeded Mr. Posey at "the valley towns."

Methodists concentrated their work at Chatooga*, Pine Log and Ross's Post Office, all outside of Gilmer. But, early in Gilmer history, Methodists began preaching at Ellijay and to worship in the little white academy on cemetery hill after it was built. Indeed Rev. William Ellington I, a Methodist, is credited with having preached "the first sermon" in Ellijay.** A number of religious addresses had doubtless been delivered, prior to that, at the Ellijay town house by missionaries connected with Carmel.

The Methodists did much preaching through evangelists who traveled through the nation. John Ross himself was a member of this faith. By 1824 Methodists reported 786 of their faith ("some of these seekers") scattered through the nation. In 1825 the denomination had eight churches and 13 schools operating under the auspices of mission societies.

Men like William Ellington and Nicholas Osborn were not content to live in a county without meeting houses***, though these were at first only log cabins.

"It was about the year 1835**** that the Legislature of Georgia appropriated a sum of money ($815) to build an academy at the sites of all the counties formed from the Cherokee country. The funds were drawn by the inferior court of each county and placed in the hands of a treasurer. That of Gilmer placed their appropriation in the hands of my brother, H. K. Quillian, who thereupon executed the plan for the structure which still stands, being near the Methodist church.***** Though considerably dilapidated, it is, after 45 years a monument to the liberality of a Georgia Legislature. The County, at the time of the erection of the academy was unable to put up, unassisted, a building commensurate with the needs of the community."

For several years thereafter, as mentioned already, all denominations were free to use this structure for religious meetings.

R. C. Welch said late in October 1946 that the first Southern Methodist church, two stories high, in Ellijay stood on the hill where Ellijay cemetery now is; and was on the spot now occupied by the Tabor-Cox burial plots. This sounds like a description of the old Gilmer academy. However, Mr. Welch well remembered the old academy and when it fell, and it isn't quite reasonable to suppose he could be confused in this matter.

Since the Ellijay Baptist association was established in 1840, we naturally infer Ellijay must have organized a Baptist congregation not later than that

*Now Lafayette, Georgia.

**The scene of the delivery of the sermon was a large oak tree that stood in front of the new Bank of Ellijay building. This was in the summer of 1833.

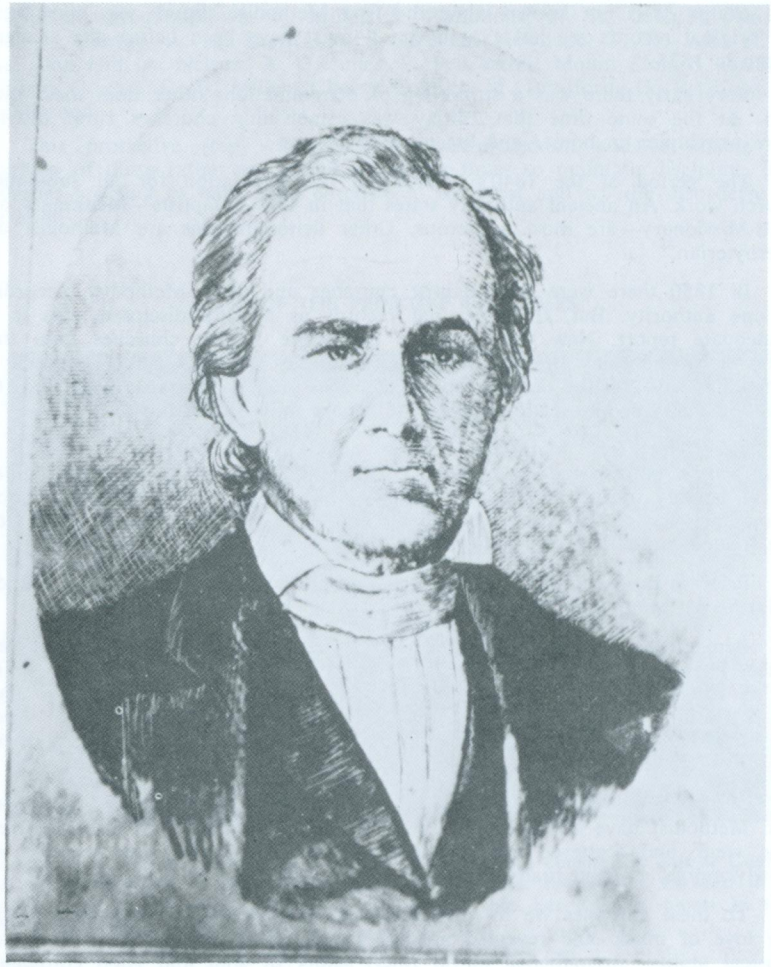
***Pioneer name for church, which still clings in Gilmer.

****Quoted from B. B. Quillian. The act was approved December 23, 1833. Mr. Quillian wrote this statement September 24, 1880. The erection of the building, therefore, was in 1835.

*****Mr. Quillian thus definitely states that a Methodist church once stood by the Academy.

year. Ebenezer Baptist church, organized Aug. 24, 1839, was doubtless the first of Baptist congregations. It was constituted in the home of Jonathon Chastain. father of Rev. Joe Chastain and grandfather of the late Dr. W. C. Chastain of Ellijay. James Adams and William Kimzey assisted the group in forming the church. Isaac Johnson gave the church seven acres of land.

Ebenezer took a prominent part in founding other churches. On the fourth Sunday in April 1841 it assisted in organizing Buckhorn church nine miles north of Ellijay. David Sisson, according to his own daughter, donated the land on which the church was built. As he did not arrive in the community till the spring of 1847, it is probable the little group did not have any church home until after the gift of the land.



HUMPHREY POSEY, Missionary among the Indians, Leader among Baptists

Ebenezer also agreed to aid Ellijay Baptist church in the ordination of deacons on the second Sunday in July 1841. So that we know at least that on that date the Ellijay Baptist was already organized. It was 1857, however, before regular, fully organized church activities functioned among Baptists at Ellijay. On July 17, 1841, Ebenezer weighed a petition from Macedonia church to meet there the following October. It appears, therefore, that Macedonia must have been organized that year or in 1840. On June 20, 1840, Mountaintown Baptist Church began keeping records. It was probably organized then.

Such data show how early the churches, having grown and developed only slightly, wanted to get into their own edifices. A moving spirit in the early Baptist fold was Alfred B. Roberts. He came to Gilmer County about 1850 and bought the J. P. Alexander estate. He was one of Gilmer's slave owners. William Ellington led the move for a separate entity for the Methodist denomination before there was any division of that body into northern and southern groups. It is not known when the first Methodist church was constituted, for original records are not extant. But it must have been before the academy began in 1835.

Very early there was a sprinkling of denominations other than these main two. At the same time that Ellijay was establishing churches rural districts were worshiping in homes and log meeting houses.

The period of the 1840's really laid the foundation for all subsequent church work. An ancient authority states that in 1845 "Baptists—Missionary and Anti-Missionary—are most numerous. Other denominations are Methodist and Presbyterian."

In 1850 there were four Baptist churches and eight Methodist, according to one authority. But, from original records as already disclosed, this is an inadequate report. New Gilmer alone had more Baptist churches than that. How many more lay beyond the present confines of the County it would be difficult to say. But the real number of churches must have been much below the needs of 7,825 people scattered over 648 square miles of territory.

The "Northern" Methodist Church, aided and encouraged of course by local people, both in and out of other congregations, did a substantial educational work, notably in the "seminary" at Ellijay. Oakland Academy, now a public elementary school, was long fostered by the Methodists South. Both institutions are treated more fully under their own heads.

Prior to the autumn of 1875 Ellijay had three churches—Baptist, Methodist (Northern), South—housed in buildings of their own.

Benjamin Cooper, whose second wife was Indian, lived at the Price Roberts place, later known as the Bart Cox place, two miles north of Ellijay in the spring of 1833. He had two grown daughters and other children. He urged B. B. Quillian to teach a Sunday School in his home, the first Sabbath school established in present Gilmer. The attendants were nearly all "native," otherwise, Indian.

In the course of time a scattered few people of faiths other than Baptist and Methodist have straggled in—Presbyterians, Christians, Adventist, Holiness. The weak and scattered congregations of the County, like its schools, will slowly merge, as good roads come, into larger and better units, or disband.

To these churches we owe much of our civilizing influences. They taught the love of music and revealed musical talent. They fed the soul of obscure musical ability; strengthened moral fiber, sanity of soul and good conscience; gave to our thinking a puritanic trend—to mention some of the better results.

Such strong emphasis has been laid upon the value of outer puritanic standards of conduct, in fact, that posing to improve one's standing through church affiliation has resulted. Much fine folk music that should have been nurtured and taught to Gilmer children has been foolishly frowned upon, banished from homes and singsong conventions. This has been a real cultural loss. The austerity of the church has likewise discountenanced the folk dance, a form of entertainment common sixty years ago, but now all but extinct. Musical instruments recognized for their contribution to art throughout the musical circles of all nations, such as the violin, have been suspect. Thus the work of the church has been by no means an unmixed good, pursuing the letter that killeth instead of the spirit that maketh alive.

Ten Baptist churches were incorporated by the legislature in 1854* with respective trustees as listed after each: Ellijay, R. B. Perry, N. L. Osborn, George Cloniger; Towncreek, Robert Jordan, F. H. Allen, Jacob Gibson; Ebenezer, J. L. Coggins, J. Pettit, E. Clayton; Macedonia, J. Rackley, J. Holden, P. Garrett; Mountaintown, P. Miller, S. Plemmons, N. R. Osborn; Pleasant Hill, A. George, A. M. Sheriff, A. S. Latham; Newhope, T. W. Ivie, H. G. Ivie; Zion Hill, A. Nelson, A. D. Jones, E. P. Carroll; Mount Zion, S. Griffith, William Greene, D. B. Miller; Cherry Log, E. M. Bradford, G. Bradford, B. Underwood.

This protective step was taken for self-protection and to enable the churches of those rather crude and boisterous times to maintain discipline. The churches are said to have been empowered to arrest and try the disorderly on the spot.

LAST OF THE PRIMITIVE CHURCHES

This log structure is the last of the log-cabin churches once common in Gilmer County. It is called Ridgeway Baptist Church, and is still in use. It contains, at least in its seating, some very high-quality timber. Its membership has been a power in that portion of Gilmer County.

*Principally, if not altogether, February 15.

Although Talking Rock Baptist Church has long been in Pickens County, it was constituted and incorporated (February 15, 1854) as a Gilmer church, with John S. James and Moses Jones trustees.

Old Price Creek was organized in 1855, and Salem in Boardtown (Landrine Tatum assisting) about the same time.

So-called Missionary Baptist churches, for the year 1919, were listed as Clear Creek, Pleasant Valley, Mount Vernon, Mount Zion, Rock Creek, Turniptown, New Hope, Ebenezer, Tails Creek, Pleasant Gap, Cherry Log, Cross Roads, New Salem (later merged with Salem, from which it came), Salem, Mount Pleasant (better known as Buckhorn), Flat Branch, Macedonia, River Hill, New Liberty, Mountaintown, Pleasant Hill, Zion Hill, East Ellijay, Liberty, Ellijay, Ellijay First (the last two have been merged).

Only two Primitive Baptist churches are known to the writer. They are Tickanetley and Zion. In 1936 this denomination was credited with a membership of 118 in the whole county.

The same year one Negro Missionary Baptist church, with 17 members, was reported. This membership is more than the whole Negro population of the County today (1959).

Jehovah's Witnesses are now active. Howard Newton was reported in 1958 as their presiding minister at Ellijay; Ray Irwin, 1959.

Jews and Catholics have been so few during the County's history that they have never established centers of worship.

In 1958 the Church of God was already organized at Ellijay. We also read of a group organized as the Church of God of Prophecy. On Oct. 1, 1959, Rev. James Oakley was reported as pastor of the Church of God, probably in Ellijay.

The Christians have organized in Ellijay and erected a church there. Their services are reportedly well attended. They also have a church in upper Boardtown, which is impressively located with the Bushyhead mountain for a background. Christians once maintained a church in Cash's Valley; and another active congregation near the Jack Dodd place, known in modern days as the Riley Key place in Boardtown district. And not many years ago, at least, they were active on Big Creek.

The Seventh Day Adventists

The Seventh Day Adventists have generously co-operated in gathering the facts we present on their representation in the County. Mrs. Charles Holverstott, clerk of the Ellijay S.D.A. Church has prepared their history for this volume.

In 1935, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Dunn and family moved into the Pleasant Gap community on the old Tails Creek road. Mrs. A. I. Cartwright came in 1937, followed by Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Holverstott, Mrs. H. E. Rosendahl, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Newlon, Mr. and Mrs. Clell Yauger, and others.

From the first, on Saturday, Sabbath School and often an after-service was held in the Dunns' home. Occasionally, for short times, the place of meeting would be in other homes, but it came back to the Dunns, as they were centrally located.

In 1946 the present church building was begun. Elder W. A. Hilliard, of Rome, was pastor and helped select the site. During the erection of the building,

Elder Woodrow Larson was pastor. He conducted the first regular services. Sept. 20, 1946, the first grave in the cemetery was dug for Franklyn Sullivan, a grandson of Mrs. F. E. Dunn. On Sept. 19, 1947, another grave was added, this being for Ruth Anne Holverstott, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Holverstott. Words of comfort and hope, on that occasion, were spoken by Mrs. Louella Doub. This was the first service held in the still unfinished building.

Dedicatory services were held for the building and congregation on May 21, 1949. by Elder V. G. Anderson, president of the Southern Union of S. D. A.; Elder I. M. Evans, president of the Georgia—Cumberland Conference, and other conference officials from Atlanta.

In the afternoon of May 21, 1949, the Pleasant Gap Church of Seventh Day Adventists was organized with 12 charter members. They are: Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Dunn, Miss Ila Mary Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cartwright, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Gilmore, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Holverstott, Mr. and Mrs. Clell Yauger, and Mrs. H. E. Rosendahl.

Growth of the congregation has been gradual, members being added from time to time by baptism, profession of faith, and church letter. In March of 1951 four members of the Ellijay Church of S. D. A., located in the southern part of the County, joined Pleasant Gap, giving it a total of 25 members.

When Dr. J. D. Schuler came to Ellijay in 1957, membership became 31. That same year the first resident pastor, Elder L. A. Edwards, arrived. In the last quarter of 1957 the name of the church was changed from Pleasant Gap to Ellijay Seventh-day Adventist Church.

As of March 25, 1960, the membership was 54.

The majority of the churches in Gilmer County are professedly Missionary Baptist. But few of them have much spirit for missions or even business-like church financing.

The Primitive Baptists, once known as Hardshell, have done much to preserve the quaint, soulful old type of "church music," sometimes referred to as sol fa. The congregation of their house of worship sings the notes of a hymn before the words, the music being of a minor strain, usually, but of high and awesome appeal.

Another survival of early world custom is the practice of foot washing as a part of church communion services. This is practiced by many Missionary Baptist congregations and perhaps by still other groups.

Methodist Churches

Rev. L. F. VanLandingham, pastor of M. E. churches, South, while located at Ellijay, was very helpful in assembling data on Methodist congregations. He did not stop till he patiently and painstakingly gathered many helpful facts. We are also indebted to Mr. Curtis Hughes for his researches on the Watkins Memorial Church, then the Southern Methodist Church of Ellijay. Rev. R. H. Robb of Atlanta has kindly acted as consultant, and himself added many helpful facts. For 60 years Doctor Robb was conversant with happenings in Gilmer. Dr. Edmund Jordan Hammond has been generous with assistance also.

During the period of "Northern" churches—or simply M. E. churches—their units were Ellijay, Gates Chapel, Oak Hill, Flint Hill, the last two, at the time of the report being inactive. Fifty years ago this group was much more flourishing, having stations at Jones Chapel, Loyal Cove, Warlick's and Flat Branch, in addition to the two such places still existent. Later East Ellijay had such a church.

M. E. Ministers of the middle period of Gilmer History, known often as "Northern Methodists." Beginning at top left and reading downward they are: B. M. Hipp, Joe Ballew, T. H. Triplett, J. H. Dunn, A. F. Ellington, B. F. Ivey, W. E. Tarpley, W. H. Sullivan.

Churches so designated had their rise in and about Ellijay near the time of the Civil War. Rev. James Lowry Fowler, largely instrumental in their founding, came from Dekalb County. He joined the old Georgia Conference of Methodism about 1860. He was a strong Union sympathizer. After the Civil War he went to Tennessee. Then he returned, like Elijah from the mountain top, to the scene of his former labors. He joined the M. E. Church conference. His labors in northern Georgia date from about 1867. That year Lewis Duvall Ellington was converted under his preaching at Cartecay. In 1876 Ellington joined the Methodist ministry. He lived till 1927.

The work of this church is peculiarly associated in mind with certain other strong individuals, some ministers, other laymen. The first of these would be William Ellington, who united with the old Western Conference in 1805. He moved to Georgia and traded with the Indians.

Other members of these congregations that made lasting impressions upon associates were David Mulkey, Barnett Wilson, the Ballews, and a number of Ellingtons other than William I.

T. H. Triplett preached twenty years. He was a gifted, persuasive man. He is mentioned in numerous other places.

Ellijay M. E. work inspired other denominations to assume the leadership in the education of more or less neglected yet capable mountain youth, which was always the primary purpose of the Ellijay Seminary, to be discussed presently.

In 1885 and 1886 the seminary had a small class of ministers in training. Sunday School conferences were also sometimes conducted. These were in the springtimes of the two years in which ministers enjoyed training. One specialist in such work, Dr. A. A. Wright by name, came from Boston, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1885.

Flint Hill church was organized about 1867 by that masterful leader, Rev. James L. Fowler (familiarly known as Jim). The building was erected somewhere near 1870.

Oak Hill was organized and the building put up about 1895. Both these churches, while inactive, still count a small membership.

Gates Chapel seems to have been preceded by another church called Mount Nebo, about a mile from the present location of the house so designated.* Gates Chapel was organized some time after the Civil War. Its membership is small. During the life of the Ellijay Seminary the church which had been organized at Ellijay enjoyed a much larger membership than it did at the time of its extinction through consolidation of Northern and Southern groups.

Southern Methodist Churches

Southern (as they were formerly designated) churches are Watkins Memorial (Ellijay), Cartecay, Nine Mile, Dover's Chapel.

The history of the Watkins Memorial church antedates the split into Southern and Northern groups, over the question of slavery, in the spring of 1845. Its first fellowship was in the little academy on the cemetery hill on the southwest edge of Ellijay. The group then built a 2-story church near the academy. This was still standing in 1880.

Other religious affiliations also shared the academy, as already mentioned, for their meetings. Rev. William Ellington I gave land for the first Methodist church at Ellijay, and the first house erected by the Methodists was near the location of the old Ellijay Baptist church but farther up toward the academy. This generous gesture occurred in 1857. But the location proved inconvenient and otherwise unsuited, and the congregation employing it resettled upon its present plot. On this site, and old wooden building was replaced, in 1927, by the handsome modern brick building now in use.

The Methodists were very early active in camp meetings. The Cartecay Camp Ground, where Oakland school now stands, was incorporated December 27, 1842, with trustees, Robert Smith, John Dunn, Lewis D. Ellington, Henry Wikle, John Addington.

Cartecay church was organized in 1859, according to Mr. VanLandingham's data. But other sources say the church was organized in 1834, and that a Sunday School was organized by its congregation April 20, 1851.

*The site of Mount Nebo is still marked by a cemetery.

Nine Mile was preceded by another church called Cohutta, no longer existent and located about three miles southwest of the present building near the Avery Langley home in Pleasant Hill community. Nine Mile is about 125 years old.

Dover's Chapel was organized about 1849. It recently suspended operation. Its work, still more recently, was reported as revived.

The membership of the three Southern Methodist churches, as reported in the fall of 1935, was

Watkins	134
Cartecay	56
Nine Mile	72

Southern Methodists came next after Presbyterian Carmel in educational work in Gilmer, choosing a strictly rural field, while the Northern folk, coming a few years later, attacked the same problem at Ellijay.

When more of our intelligent young people are active in our churches, they will promote more business-like methods in their congregations. They will also demand that candidates for the ministry prepare themselves for their work.

Through their efforts, too, we should have more nearly adequate support for ministers, permitting them to give their entire time to the ministry and the spiritual and humanitarian development of their congregations and communities. Every church should relate itself to the common (or general) welfare.

The best the future church can hope to do is to nurture aspiration, apply both reason and emotion to drills in ethics from the "cradle roll" up, tend toward more originality and the merits of comparative religion. Ethics and a code of honor should be taught from the kindergarten up. C. C. Everett, a Harvard teacher, many years ago produced a book called "Ethics for Young People" and revealed to us how near a code of honor is to daily life. We need such adroit approach to a code of honor in every grade in every school, public and private.

One final word for the almost forgotten people. We refer to those of a philosophic character, keenly penetrating in their insight, who may partly or wholly reject the authority now considered by the "fundamentalists" as the only anchorage for religion. Among these bold intellects was Capt. John D. Howell, born in Warsaw, Indiana. To him simple facts were enough. He keenly appreciated intellectual interests and questionings of all kinds and praised them without stint.

Many others of his type have lived and still live. They are not to be considered as enemies of the social order, or even of the churches. In all ages such people have saved (or helped to save) the intellectual world from stagnation. As the moon stirs the ocean and keeps it wholesome, thus saving the world, so these thinkers may help to roil the intellectual world, putting ferment into it, letting in fresh air and sunshine and keeping it sound.

CHAPTER 9

Courts and Medical Practice Begin

As previously recorded, court was coming in August 1833, about the second Monday. The judge was John W. Hooper; the solicitor general, William Ezzard. Both were able and clever men.

The judge and solicitor both arrived in due time for the court. Bethel Quillian had summoned every white man in the County to serve as grand jurors. They were all sworn in except the bailiff of the Ellijay District, he being reserved to wait on the grand jury. The whole number of the jury, Mr. Quillian recalls, was about twenty one. The court had one lawyer from a distance, Milton H. Gathright from Dahlonega.

The only business before the court was the finding of bills against persons who had trespassed on Indian improvements. For under the provision of the treaty made with the Cherochee* Indians they were to retain the possession of their improvements until a certain time, which historian Quillian recalled as May 1837. The government appointed an agent to see that their claims were respected and their rights guarded.

This was a very novel court session, and both judge and solicitor seemed to enjoy it very much. When the jury would be absent from the courthouse, the crowd spent the time eating watermelons. The book board in front of the judge was the carving table. The feast was greatly relished by the convenient judge along with the rest. When not eating, the crowd would have a social chat. If a stranger had passed at that time, he would never have guessed that a superior court was in session. Soon after dinner the court adjourned, and the multitude repaired to their scattered homes.

Col. Charles H. Nelson, appointee for Indian claims, was probably a native Georgian; a Democrat in politics and a man of conspicuous ability if contemporary historical data may be trusted. He was keen and informed on the politics of the country. He afterward commanded a regiment in the Seminole War. Later still, he was warden of the state penitentiary. Seven years before the War between the States he died in Gordon County. His friends erected a marble monument to his memory, which, fifty years ago, was still standing near the courthouse in Calhoun.

It was the duty of an appointee, in the position of Colonel Nelson, to look after all the articles of the treaty made between the United States Government and the Cherokee Indians, but it was difficult to restrain persons who had drawn or purchased farms on which Indians had lived from intruding on the Indians in some form. Consequently bills of indictment were frequently preferred against members of the grand jury. Then the number of members indicted would be struck from the jury during the investigation of persons accused. When the jury would return with their verdict an accused juror would resume his place as a juryman.

In one instance there was a bill preferred against some four or five jurymen, and on striking them from the jury the count showed only seventeen remaining possible jurors. This was one below what the law required. The question then arose what must be done. There was no going out of the state to find a man to supply the needed juryman's place. But the judge promptly ordered the bailiff sworn in as a juryman and to take his place with the grand jury. Bethel

*A form of spelling used in some documents.

Quillian, in the absence of the sheriff, was ordered to accompany the jury when it left the courtroom.

Accordingly everybody repaired to a grove near the courthouse, as the court did not use the siderooms to the courthouse for the jury meetings. The weather was warm and the grove preferred because it was more pleasant and considered equally appropriate for assembling such a body.

"When the jury had acted on that bill we all returned to the courthouse and resumed our former places."

But the question naturally arises in the mind of the reader, where was the sheriff, Huffstutler? To the intense mortification of B. B. Quillian, Huffstutler was intoxicated, and left town before eleven o'clock with some Indians and did not return until late in the evening.* He did not speak to the judge or solicitor that day. "I begged him early that morning not to drink any that day," writes Quillian, as the judge was there and it would be disgraceful for the sheriff to get drunk. He promised me faithfully that he would not, but he kept his promise only until he crossed the square and got to where there was some liquor. But I shall have more to say about him hereafter."

Another momentous court session was held on Monday, February 9, 1835. It was in sharpest contrast to that of the first. The people of Gilmer County were emerging from the coldest wave in their history. The Saturday preceding was "Cold Saturday." The folk had serious doubts that Superior Court Judge Hooper and Solicitor Ezzard could reach their appointment.

The bitter cold had caught the two, who, before setting out from Blairsville, had waited for better weather! Instead, the bottom of the thermometer all but fell out. Streams froze over. Ferries were useless. Bridges were lacking. It was dangerous to take the horses across on the ice.

However, after leaving Blairsville and spending a few days with an old friend, Col. Hunter, on Valley River, the two set out through the bitter cold for Ellijay, 50 miles away, on the notable Saturday, getting no farther, however, that day than the Nottely river. There they spent the night with an hospitable man whose name Solicitor Ezzard could not recall but whose kindness was never forgotten. The host had but a single little cabin room—combination kitchen, dining room, living room, bedroom. But all possible was done to make the guests "on such a night as this" comfortable.

At retiring time, the judge merely pulled off his boots—a preliminary quickly over—then went to bed. The two bedfellows passed the night in fair comfort. Next morning the weather was still appallingly cold. But the two resumed their toilsome way to Ellijay. Between sundown and dark, they arrived at Clemonds Quillian's.

Upon arrival, they were wrapped, like ghostly twilight figures clopping along the frozen trails on phantom horses, in blankets from head to foot. They reported, as they thawed themselves out, of their mental and physical harrowings of the preceding two days. Mr. Quillian's rousing fire restored them to normal temperature and spirits. Mr. Quillian took a small table into their room and setting it in front of the fire, let them eat their supper off that.

Come next day, Monday, it was "Court." But so cold did the weather continue, the session found meeting in the little log courthouse (with cracks between the round logs probably still unchinked) would be an exposure that had better be avoided.

*This was probably the day he got into a fight with the Indians.

Col. Goodman kindly offered the court the use of a room in his new house, and his hospitality was gladly accepted. After a big roaring fire was well started, officials went through the formalities of opening court, attended by those only who had necessary business. Col. Goodman was the only resident attorney on hand. The weather was still bitterly cold, but from the extremes of Saturday had moderated a little.

Reminiscences of Bethel B. Quillian

"Rev. Bethel B. Quillian, one of the old pioneer settlers of Gilmer County was in Ellijay recently.* He told a number of interesting happenings of the early days in Gilmer. In 1834 Mr. Quillian helped trim the bushes out of the streets of Ellijay. He cried off the first sale of town lots.

"After Gilmer was organized, he was its first deputy sheriff. The sheriff himself was an illiterate man named Levi W. Huffstutler, who loved his corn liquor too well to attend to his office. Hence the duties devolved upon the deputy. The first court was convened in a little log house. The only cases to be tried were indictments against scattered white settlers for trespassing on the lands of the Indians.

"The jury retired to the nearby thickets to make their verdicts. And, in their absence, the officers of the court, finding idle time on their hands, amused themselves at times by eating watermelons and cracking jokes. They cut the melons on the simple boards that served as the judge's desk."

This, supposedly, was the occasion of the sheriff's vanishing while court was in session, and his coming back late in the afternoon, his eyes red, leaves all over his back. Mr. Quillian was acting sheriff. The court ran short of jurors and had to put the bailiff on the jury. This compelled the deputy sheriff to take charge of the jury when they went to the woods to make their verdicts; so that, for the time, the court would be left without a sheriff.

In those days it was customary for gentlemen to carry their letters and papers in the crown of their hats. Once a stranger came to Ellijay and inquired for the sheriff. Mr. Quillian answered "I'm the sheriff."

Whereupon the stranger inquired, "And where do you keep your office?"

"In my hat, of course," replied Mr. Quillian.

"In those days also," the country was new and vigorous and teemed with wild life. Game and fish abounded; so that, if means of making a livelihood were few, nature's bounty was sure and plentiful.

"There were six hundred Indian families living in the County, which was then much larger than it is now.

"White Path, the celebrated Indian who left his name to the White Path Springs, post office and gold mines of the neighborhood, was local Indian chief. He was a warrior and orator of distinction in his time. He had fought with General Jackson against the hostile Creek Indians at the celebrated battle of the Horseshoe in Alabama, and had received marked consideration from Old Hickory, as Jackson was familiarly called.

"White Path belonged to the Ross Party, which opposed the removal of the Indians to the West. Just before the removal he went to Washington on business for his tribe and died, on his way back home, at Hopkinsville, Kentucky.**

*Quoted from the Mountain Sentinel, July 25, 1895.
**An error. He died on the trek West, as elsewhere stated.

"The Indians were carried West in 1838, and the vacated country was thereafter rapidly settled up by white people.

"Mr. Quillian is about the only one left of the first settlers of Gilmer County. He lives now at Cass Station, Georgia. He is 81, and has preached the gospel for more than 50 years. For six successive years he was in the state senate. He has probably married as many couples as any man in Georgia. He has lived to see his great-grandchildren. And during his declining years he is blessed with the honor and respect he deserves."

Medical Beginnings

For several years after the settlement of Gilmer County its people had no doctor. When it became known that Mrs. William R. King (whose ministry to the people somewhat supplied the place of doctor and nurse) could not cope with a case of illness, the community sent all the way to Dahlonega, by rough mountain trail, a distance of 50 miles, for a doctor.

So healthful was our climate, the country offered few inducements—other than preventive and emergency practice—to a doctor to settle in it. But the first thing the scattered pioneers knew a medical prospect, in the person of John Dillinger, who aspired to the service vacated by Dr. Elizur Butler when he withdrew from the area in June 1831.

When Mr. Dillinger began his career as physician, no one seemed aware that he had as much as read a medical book. He had come to Ellijay from North Carolina. At first he was known as a stone mason, and for years worked at that trade. He somewhat suddenly branched off into a medical career, though this was admittedly pioneer, primitive and compounded with a lot of guesswork, folkway and superstition.

"The garden and the woods were his apothecary shop, and his success was marked," B. B. Quillian records. "His practice increased until it was necessary for him to transfer his medicine from his pockets to a fine pair of wallets. His work in this field expanded over a number of years. And, for a man of his initial defects in training, his reputation was wide and established."

In the latter part of the period of his practice he used some "mineral medicine" with his more folksy remedies. Personally the man was honest, truthful. He hated a mean and contemptible act. He scorned the man who would lie and swindle to keep from paying his just debts. Though always on the side of morals in any issue, he was never directly affiliated with any church. His kindness to the poor was widely noted, and to neighbors in general he was obliging and considerate; in politics, Democratic.

Soon after the Civil War, he removed West, taking with him a treasure of goodwill from the people of Gilmer.

Quoting further from Quillian:

"William Hamilton Milton was, I believe, the first doctor that moved to Ellijay. He came from Blairsville, where he had been but a few years. Originally, it is probable, he came from South Carolina. Doctor Milton was a man advanced in years before he settled in Ellijay. He was a man of fine education, a graduate of a medical college somewhere in the North, probably. At any rate he was an excellent physician and got a good practice as long as he was able to travel.

"The last few years of his life he merely prescribed for his patients, as he was too feeble to visit them. He died a few years before the War between

the States. In politics, Doctor Milton was a Democrat, and a member of the Methodist Church. He had three sons and one daughter.

"His oldest son, William, was a prominent man in Gilmer County, and a successful merchant. He was elected to the momentous convention when Georgia seceded from the Union. He entered the war,, became captain, and was probably promoted to Lieut. Col. before the war closed. He fought through to the finish and returned home to his family. Sometime after his return, while he was having his supper, some unknown person shot through his window, killing him. It was never determined just who committed this crime.

His two brothers, Pink and Fayette, were both living in Gilmer County in the early part of the 1880's. Pink joined the first regiment of regulars that went from Georgia to the War. He fought entirely through the conflict and returned, though wounded, to Gilmer. The people honored him several times as tax collector. The only daughter of Doctor Milton married the popular and esteemed David Garren. Mrs. Milton long survived her husband."

A doctor named Mason, coming from Dahlonega, settled in Ellijay soon after Doctor Milton arrived. Doctor Mason was a son of a minister who had moved from some northern state to Dahlonega and was one of the first officers of the United States mint at that place. Dr. Z. H. Mason was highly educated, being a graduate, according to common report, of a medical college in the North. After completing his medical course he came to Ellijay with his young intelligent wife with the intention of locating there permanently. But the country was naturally healthful. Doctor Milton had already settled in Ellijay. And Doctor Dillinger was nearby in the County. These circumstances combined caused Doctor Mason to seek another field for the exercise of his profession. After a year or two he removed to Murray County, whence, without much delay, he went on to Florida. There, report came back, he was living prosperously when last heard from.

The next physician that came to Ellijay was William Young. He was a very promising young man. Within a reasonable time he had established an excellent reputation, and was acknowledged as a good practitioner. Removing to Texas, he left behind him abundant goodwill. He was without church affiliations. In politics he was a Democrat.

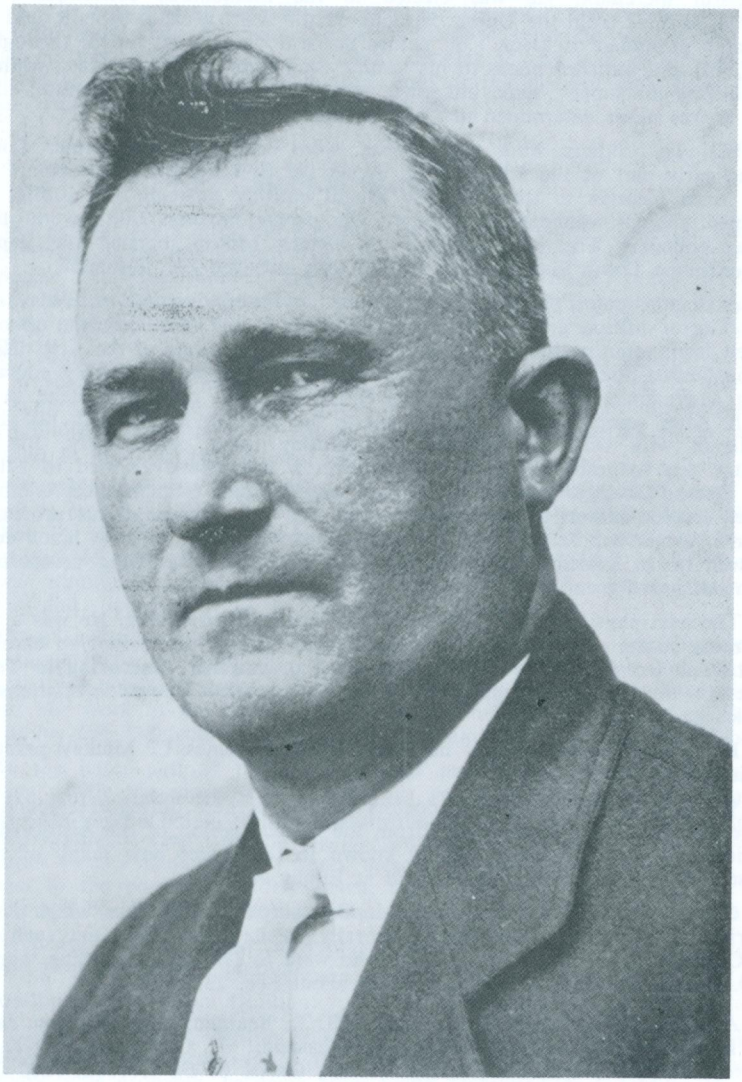
For several years prior to his death in 1879, James C. Mulkey practiced medicine in Gilmer County.

We append a list of Gilmer doctors picked up there during researches and conversations. These names extend from the earliest period of our history down to modern days. It is not definitely known to the writer how many of them are still living except for a few located at Ellijay.

Gilmer has usually furnished a sizeable surplus of doctors which it has contributed to other communities—generally to its own loss. One such was Dr. C. H. Jones, born in Ellijay 1855, who went to Dahlonega, settling there in 1880. He was reported to have died there about Feb. 23, 1912.

Anderson, J. E., Banks, C. G., Banks, G. T., Bearden, J. B., Bearden, James M., Bradley, J. W., Chastain, Bunyan, Chastain, W. C., Chastain, W. M., Clayton, Malcolm, Cox, C. G., Ellis, W. H., Gates, B. F., Gordon, Joe, Goss, N. C. Holden, A. S., Holden, Farish C., Hunt, R. R., Johnson, J. R., Mason, Z. H., Pettit, J. K., Randall, J. H., Russell, C. C., Russell, R. L., Russell, W. V., Tankersley, J. S., Watkins, E. C., Watkins, E. W., Watkins, E. W. Jr., Watkins, J. M., West, Grover, West, James, West, S. A.

Additional notes on doctors might mention the location of Dr. G. T. Banks at Fairmount; that Dr. Grover West settled at Roopville.



DR. W. H. ELLIS

Gilmer native, who practiced healing for a while in eastern Gilmer, then moved to Florida.

Dr. B. F. Gates, son of Peter A. Gates, who came to Gilmer about 1850, was reported to be living at Cleveland, Tenn., in 1950. He practiced his profession there until recent years.

Dr. Loyd Davis is located in the Knoxville, Tenn., area.

We have had, for several years, a hospital in which local physicians may treat patients. During recent years, also the O'Daniel brothers (Dr. J. Y. and Dr. James F.) operated a clinic, now closed. Dr. Charles B. Watkins and associates operate a clinic.

Dr. C. B. Teal Jr., was formerly connected with an Ellijay clinic. But he is now in Rome. Dr. James D. Shuler formerly operated a clinic in Ellijay. Associated with him was Dr. Howard Huenergardt.

Dr. Harold E. Mitzelfelt and associates operate the North Georgia clinic in Ellijay. Dr. George Johnstone of Atlanta assists.

Dr. C. M. Berry is associated with the Watkins clinic.

Dr. Bill Sumner, formerly of Gilmer, is an oculist located at Bainbridge.

Serving Ellijay as dentists during recent years have been Dr. R. W. Smith, Dr. H. F. Feagan, Dr. Arthur L. Cagle and Dr. B. H. Lee.

Dr. G. L. Huff Jr. and Dr. Roger Starnes operate drug stores and fill prescriptions at Ellijay.

Dr. A. C. Ayers has, for many years since leaving Gilmer, been a pharmacist in Atlanta.

Dr. M. A. Cox formerly operated the drug store now operated by Dr. Roger Starnes.

CHAPTER 10

Gilmer Gold

If we accept this old quotation from a newspaper of 1891, the Gilmer gold mines were a part of the earliest concerns of the English settlers of Georgia, for it reads: "Gilmer County is within the Cherokee Strip acquired by purchase by Georgia from Indians after the Spanish and French were expelled by Oglethorpe by force from the gold placer mines which they had been working in a careless manner—though to great profits—since 1560."

Arthur Pinson, for many years a merchant and postmaster at White Path, scene of the County's chief gold-mining operations, declares that water ditches showed that primitive men knew of the existence of gold there and actually worked the mines before the coming of the first white settlers to the neighborhood around 1830. White Path was named for an Indian chief who lived there until 1838.

It has been suggested that some of De Soto's men, scattered after the death of their leader, may have returned to north Georgia to resume operations in gold diggings abandoned or contemplated by them on their first trip through this section or to trace then-heard rumors of gold.

Osborn Holt, who is often credited with first finding gold at White Path, says he came upon immense white oaks growing in ditches supposedly dug by Indians. He also found a mysterious dam in a creek that could have been built only by people far preceding white occupation.

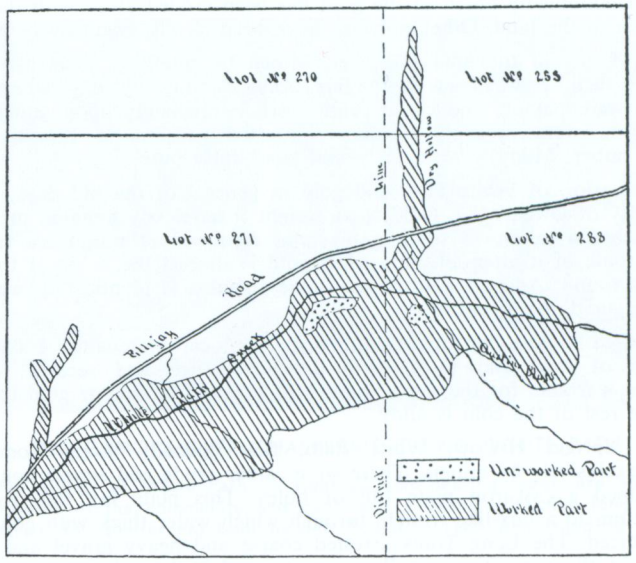
With what may be termed the rediscovery of gold at White Path, much excitement prevailed. And considerable legend has doubtless become mingled with facts in the accounts concerning the matter. And it seems that no contemporary has left us any diary or other faithful and detailed report made at the time. B. B. Quillian, to whom credit is due for many of the facts we have, lived in Gilmer throughout the period of greatest gold production.

Vincent Ferrell, who had moved here from Habersham County, acquired the "gold mine lot," on which he discovered gold. Ferrell, about 1842, had settled upon this lot, then in primeval forest. He cleared a small farm in either that year or 1843 he was cutting a small ditch through a strip of bottom when, according to some good authorities, he first discovered, by accident, gold. Excited to fever pitch, people stampeded to lease various portions of his land, upon which other rich but sporadic finds occurred.

The Ferrell family had a custom of doing the family wash close to their spring. Some member, in dipping water into pots and tubs, scooped up some gravel and sediment from the bottom of the spring. Mrs. Ferrell, in emptying such vessels, noticed gold in the bottom of a wash tub. This discovery must have followed closely the one by her husband in the ditch.

This new discovery intensified interest, naturally. Prospectors, delving about a lot adjoining the one from which the first gold was dug, did further service in widening the area known as gold-producing.

Throughout the period of mining at White Path the problem of obtaining plenty of water for the more elevated portions of the area has harried miners. The topography is rolling to mountainous. The water is plentiful in the valleys, on levels far lower than, say, Austin Bluff, east of which I can remember seeing an old rotting flume curving round the high brow of a small mountain hundreds of feet above White Path Creek, which flows by the south base of



Area about White Path that yielded gold prior to 1885. This survey was made by the State Department of Geology, and it is to the Department's engineers that we are indebted for the map.

To one riding along the Ellijay road, travel seems to be approximately north and south. The dotted line runs east and west, and is the line between Ellijay and Cherry Log districts.

While most of the gold was dug in Ellijay district, the hotels, bath houses, bowling alleys, stores and a post office called White Path were located north of the dotted line in Cherry Log district. White Path railroad station, long maintained half a mile west of this district, was also in Cherry Log. Likewise, the important mineral springs.

the hill. Great pits then appeared on the bluff. Primitive men apparently strove with the same problem, with but a fraction of the success of the miners who came during later years.

The Georgia White Path Copper and Gold Mining Company was empowered, in 1856, to turn into a flume Rock Creek, three miles northward to sluice the mines. This ambitious project, while possible, would entail an outlay altogether too risky except with prospect of large and prolonged yields of gold or other valuable ores. And there seems to be nothing else of the kind around except iron ore—undemonstrated fully, as yet. The plan was never carried out.

The White Path mines were all placer, that is scattered about in gravel, clay, sand, and such, rather than in any regular veins. It was also often near the surface and was free gold. This peculiarity goes far back in the geological ages, when the original deposits may have run in veins and regular leads. But a vast stretch of time since they became, through erosion and other factors,

confused. Undoubtedly much of the gold has been eroded away with the general eating down of the land. Other portions have been slowly swept away by floods.

Little if any of the gold was ever refined by smelting. Thus managers of mines and their crews knew with fair accuracy day by day whether their operations were paying, and could cease work immediately upon gold's playing out. Nuggets were scraggly, seldom suggested erosion, a recently molten condition, rather. Many were entirely and beautifully pure.

In discussion of White Path and gold in general of the old days, we offer the authority of Owen May. Gold loses weight if carelessly handled or scattered about; so that a miser, in running his gold frequently through his fingers, is giving up some of it after all. Unwashed gold is stained the color of the soil in which it is found. And all gold of the same fineness is identical in weight and color throughout the world.

"We used to sell our dust and nuggets to local merchants. I could send $25 worth of raw gold to a national assay office and receive in return government warrants for the same amount. It takes 29 grains of gold to make a dollar. The rest of the coin is alloy."

When Spriggs Hollow, White Path, first opened, "Long Toms" were employed exclusively by miners. These were rather crude and simple contrivances that contained a cast-iron plate full of holes. This plate lay flat, forming a sort of bottom to a box-like trough, through which water thick with gold-bearing silt was sluiced. The Long Toms arrested coarse and heavy gravel and nuggets, permitting at the same time smaller nuggets to fall through to a second-floor riffle board beneath. This operation was suspended nightly and the gold collected. Much of the gold was washed out by the simple process of panning.

Next came sluice boxes. These, squared and set up like boxes, might run 10 to 75 feet. Flumes supplied water, usually with more or less pressure to the current. The miners dug down prospective pay dirt and shoveled it into the flumes and ditches, often wading along them as they worked.

An important middle-period figure around White Path was William B. Dorn. Tradition is supported by Chapman's History of Edgefield, South Carolina. Mr. Dorn was once a personage of note in the Edgefield section. He was obsessed with gold hunting. For years he kept this up. He sank money in fruitless digging.

He and a partner, probably named Bell, were heart-weary with their fruitless quest. They had about come to the conclusion to give up the quest and dig no more. Then they decided to make one more effort, digging where an axe which Mr. Bell carried in his hand should fall after being hurled from him. Seizing the axe by the end of the handle, Bell whirled it around his head two or three times, then, with all his might, let it fly. The two found rich pay streak where it fell.

The first year of operations paid Dorn $10,000. He continued to find gold and to pile up wealth, which finally totaled a million or more. His marriage to a beautiful young wife was a social event of his old home community.

"About 1856, having heard of White Path and finds of gold during the big-boom days of the 1840's, he left Edgefield County, South Carolina and settled at White Path. With his wealth, he believed he could discover and dig out more goal than ever. He brought with him some 35 slaves, male and female. Some of the men were mechanics and builders. There was a legend around White Path he had dug two million dollars out of a mine in his home state. My paternal grandfather and great-grandfather were Dorn's neighbors," Mr. May continues.

OLD CANOPY OVER CHALYBEATE SPRING, WHITE PATH

The mineral springs of White Path, in sight of gold-bearing lodes, are an important natural resource of the community and continued a prime attraction long after gold mining ceased. This shelter was built by Jeff Turner in 1884, and stood 30 years.

He cleared land, built a 60-foot long saloon, a hotel near the mineral springs, an important resource of the area, and numerous other structures there. Dorn was in fact one of the most enterprising men in the County's history.

Mr. Owen, who gold-mined 35 years, and his ancestors lived many years around White Path. He vividly recalls Dorn and his operations; and that, through unprofitable investments, including failure to find the gold he conjectured White Path might yet yield, loss of slaves, and other misfortunes, his wealth began melting away. The Civil War added to his losses causing his developments at White Path to lag. He seems to have returned to South Carolina long before his death about 1875 at the approximate age of 80. Members of his brother's family held White Path for generations after.

My generation can recall "Major" Dorn, his wife, with their several children. Both are noted elsewhere. Gary, one of the major's sons, married a Gilmer County girl. Major Dorn was nephew to William.

It was some time after William Dorn's activities had died down, leaving many testimonies and traditions of his labors, especially a hotel (which recognized the facts that the climate and mineral springs of White Path surpass all its gold found and unfound) that Owen May came upon the scene. Mr. May has helped much and often and unfailingly to get White Path straight on the record. He was 12 years old. All about he discerned relics of the boom days and tokens of their decline and decay. He went to placer mining. He found gold in a pure state. His first partners were a brother, Ridgeway May, and his father, Bill May. The three often stood in cold mountain water as they shoveled out gravel, sluiced, washed away finer debris—got down to gold. Here he continued seven years.

We are also indebted to Benjamin P. Whitaker, long a resident of White Path, for additional facts about gold mining there. He confirms the manner in which Mrs. Ferrell found gold. This caused a rush for gold on the "Lee Moore Lot," named after a mulatto, who lived out his life span around White Path and was the last negro to reside in that region. This land lay southwest of the last mineral spring toward Ellijay.

Parcels of ground yielding heaviest finds were California Hill and Lot 288—richest of all—for it contained Spriggs Hollow and McKinney and Austin Bluffs. These plots all seem to lie east of the present highway a short distance after one tops the first little rise in passing southward from the springs. In fact, the traveler along here is passing right through the "gold belt," which extends along the highway all the way between the little bridge across Mineral Springs Branch (or creek) and White Path Creek bridge just east of the old White Path home. Throughout the region the ground has been torn and pitted and ditched through and sluiced over again and again. This is particularly true of the land along White Path Creek. Now the whole region is relegated to fields and wilderness, its pits and trenches weathering down, caving in, growing over, and haunted with the ghosts of former years with their long train of hope and disappointment. The gray light of reality has finally conquered and broods over the scenes of the robust activities of the days of old.

In Spriggs Hollow gold with a stain like that of coffee grounds was found even on plucked-up grass roots. A chestnut tree, once standing in here, upon being blown down, revealed gold among its roots. Gold pits on Mineral Springs Branch, a small mountain-fed creek which empties into Brier Creek near White Path railroad station, were dug mainly eight by eight feet and down to the slate. Some of these, scattered westward, extended along the creek as far as the station, half a mile away. About half-way between these points we boys used to know a point where stamping upon the ground gave back a hollow sound as if a cave, natural or artificial, lay just beneath. Pits likewise spread southward in a streak to the top of the first little rise in the road south of the springs. Through here the gold had a black ferrous, or iron-looking, hull which could be cracked off like a nut shell. Other nuggets were embedded in slate.

Dry Hollow lies west of the modern highway and far down White Path Creek toward the turning off of the old road near the Pinson place, ancient home of Chief White Path. It was mainly on the Lee Moore Lot. Ward Hollow is still nearer the same place. It too yielded well. All these plots have likewise been worked over three or four times, the first two workings paying well. Mr. Whitaker, in his old age, tested some spots where he had worked, in here, long years before and found 25 or 30 colors in his pan.

An incident, not lacking in crude humor, has come down from the roaring days at White Path. Fields Patterson, impressively tall and broad in the shoulders, and correspondingly courageous and ready for a fight, entered the log cabin saloon of a bewhiskered man remembered only as "Old Mooney," the location of whose dispensary was just south of the crossing below the site of a railroad station. In a little cleared patch, now traced by a road, west of the railroad, it was later a home for several successive families.

Fields called peremptorily for his quart. Mooney denied having any liquor. But the height of Fields now played its part, enabling him to spot, high in a cobwebby corner, the very article he wanted. He shot a powerful left across Mooney's crude counter, seized him by his flowing whiskers, and menaced with his right.

"Give me that quart you're holdin' back on me up there, Mooney, or I'll

storm the castle!" he demanded, and got the liquor.

Miners gave a tenth of the gold they found to the owners of the land. Miners received $1.50 a day, but often contrived to keep back enough gold to make the wage $5. The smallest crew of four men produced three teacups of gold a day. Tradition says a single man named Davis dug, all told, 8,000 pennyweights.

One man built a stockade, leased convicts and worked them in the mines. Negro slaves must have added to the colorful stir of activity. For a wiley slave is reported to have slyly maneuvered a nugget estimated at 700 pennyweights so that it slid from his shovel. He put his foot on it and mashed it gradually into the mud. That night the negro ran away from his stockade in hopes of retrieving his find. But he failed to locate the nugget. Moreover his absence was detected and, upon his return, he got a whipping for his pains.

Osborn Holt used to say that a flour barrel of gold would by no means sprinkle the countryside thereabouts as it was to begin with. In fact when White Path was in full blast, employing 700 to 1,000 men and running (as some assert) 13 saloons, a measured peck of gold came in off the Long Toms every night. Two nuggets found in Dry Hollow, another tradition avers, totaled 2,200 pennyweights. A single nugget weighed 1,800. It was sent to the old mint at Dahlonega. State records are said to verify nuggets from White Path up to 1,120 pennyweights.

Early days at White Path Owen May recounted. "I heard the legends, the traditions—all the glamorous tales of the 1840's and other days of old. Around me were some of the old slaves freed from masters, particularly from Bill Dorn. There was Aunt Rachel and another we called Aunt Emily. Louise was still there. She was once cook and house girl for the Spriggs family, notable in gold operations. Old Bat and Jim Hibbard were aged negro men.

"Dock Ward found a nugget that weighed 365 pennyweights. It was as big as his fist. Zeke Spriggs found one that weighed 35 pennyweights more; and another, crusted, about the size of a guinea egg that lay heavy in the Tom. He caught a telltale gleam through the crust, which he broke like a walnut shell and threw away, only to be told later the crust was the most valuable part of the nugget. Once Spriggs, being asked if he had had a good day with his Long Tom, replied, 'Feel the pockets of my coat hanging there on the wall. I have pounds of gold in them.' They bulged.

"Captain Frank Harris mined considerably around White Path. On the bedrock slate Arthur Pinson uncovered 150 pennyweights of gold in a single basin. Jim Holt, son of Osborne, worked around there for Cave Conley. One day Conley asked Holt, 'Will you help me throw off this pit? Will you chance with me in digging farther down?'

"Holt having answered no, Conley sank his pit a foot deeper and found 400 pennyweight."

Two miners went "pardners" at White Path. One was named Spriggs— Zeke, no doubt. The other's name is unknown to the writer. The two struck it rich in Spriggs Hollow.

The night following was stormy. Next morning was still bad. But Spriggs went on to work. His partner remained by the metal in their shack. Spriggs worked down till he was ready to clear out his Toms. He filled his pockets till he broke his suspenders. Neighbors saw it happen.

A trusted man ran away that night with 2,200 pennyweights of gold. He struck through the mountainous wilderness for Dahlonega, where the national government maintained (1838-1861) a mint,* 50 miles away. His partner discovered the theft, hastened after the betrayer, overtook him and came back with his 1100 pennyweights.

A miner named Austin tradition credits with having put the gold he dug in a chest that became so heavy Jack May could not lift it.

The nugget that has been accepted as being the most notable ever found at White Path was dug out of Spriggs Hollow. It set many a tired arm to new force and energy, revived flagging hope, inspired rosier dreams.

To celebrate in fitting frontier manner so great a discovery, that night the mining "boys" had an Indian war dance. Joe Davis** of Dahlonega was present. A man named Harris owned the new ostrich egg.

He and Davis repaired to a blacksmith shop nearby and put the nugget in a crucible to melt it—their object probably being to divide it.

The crucible burst and the molten metal spattered forcibly about. But the interested parties painfully picked up the badly scattered pieces, down to the finest particles. Those they then carried to the mint at Dahlonega, where much of the White Path gold was minted into coin.

Two stories have survived, both probably referring to this particular nugget.

Old Joe Davis lived over on the edge of Dawson County. Davis knew the ancient boom days of White Path. Bill May, his guest, asked him, "How large was the biggest nugget ever discovered at White Path, the one that caused so much excitement and led to the war dance?"

Old Joe paused, looked around for an object for comparison. Then his eyes rested, through an open door, on the frizzled head of his negro cook. Pointing to her, Joe replied, "as big as her head."

Harrison Riley, who once ran a hotel at Dahlonega, asked a visitor from White Path, "How large was the biggest nugget of gold you ever saw?" A good-sized negro boy happened to be running about the hotel yard at the moment. The visitor eyed him appraisingly.

"As big as that nigger's head" was the answer he gave Riley.

Fifty years after the big boom was no more John Henson, occupying a little cottage across White Path creek opposite Dry Hollow, used to wash out gold and carry his dust and nuggets to Arthur Pinson, who in turn sent the gold to John Silvey & Company, in Atlanta. The company credited Mr. Pinson with 90 cents per pennyweight, and forwarded the metal to a mint.

"I have spent twenty years of my life at Coosa Creek mines in Union County, where I became postmaster and merchant as well as miner. From there we finally returned to White Path, my favorite home and the place where I should like to end my days quietly mining for more gold," Owen May once mused. He realized a part of that dream. For on Jan. 11, 1942, we saw him while he was living his declining years at the old White Path home. But he lacked the strength to keep up his mining. He was a ready and reliable consultant in discussing days at White Path, as we mention elsewhere in noting his death.

"The last gold I offered for sale," he further related, "on the streets of Canton, was a little twelve-dollar nugget. I had difficulty in finding a buyer. For Georgia folk are no longer used to handling gold in the raw. The only nugget I still own is mounted on a stick pin that belonged to a son now dead."

White Path is said to have produced, all told, two million dollars. But these figures certainly must be somebody's estimates. The gold fever has been recurrent there to this day.

Turkey Pen and More Gold

Prospectors, some of them seasoned miners, went delving about over Gilmer County during the first years of its legal occupation. Two of these were David Sisson and his son-in-law, Bradley Hallford. Both these men seem to have learned gold-mining in the Dahlonega district prior to their coming to Gilmer County in 1847. They, William Ellington II, a man named Plemmons, and perhaps others discovered gold at Turkey Pen, a region still in lonely rolling woods about six miles northwest of White Path in Cherry Log district, but only a few rods from the eastern edge of Boardtown.

A tunnel 60 feet deep was sunk, many trenches cut, and a few sensational finds of gold made. One of these prospectors told of a pocket of nuggets which was uncovered at the bottom of an ancient waterfall, long since dry but still showing signs of its erosive effect about. The deposit filled a quart jar.

More recent thorough prospecting at the old diggings, however, does not justify the conclusion that paying quantities of gold exist there any more.

About the time the White Path mines were discovered, prospectors found gold on Cartecay river also. The scene of this find became known as the Nicholson Mine. It, too, proved rich; and, before operations there ceased, a fortune had been taken from it. At first it was owned by a man named Nicholson, who refused to lease it, preferring, instead, to work it with hired hands. Later he sold the mine—or a large portion of it—to John Leak of Cartersville. A few years afterward Mr. Leak died, and the mine fell to his heirs. Several generations ago Dr. W. W. Leak came into control of most of this mine.

While Mr. Nicholson worked the Cartecay mine, he lived in Cass, now known as Bartow county. He employed as superintendent of his operations a young man named Samuel M. Ralston, reared in Lumpkin county, where he had gained valuable experience in gold mining. For several years he worked the mine. Before the property fell into the Leak family's hands, Ralston realized considerable profit from his venture.

Mr. Ralston long remained a citizen of Gilmer County. He married a daughter of John Addington. He once represented the County in the lower branch of the Legislature. During Civil War days Samuel M. Ralston was a captain in the 8th Georgia Cavalry, afterward commanding a battalion. Wounded in an arm, he was taken to Atlanta, where he remained for several weeks in a hospital. After the war Mr. Ralston sold his Gilmer property and moved to Fannin. Not many years after that he died. About 1880 his widow was still alive and in prosperous circumstances. Mr. Ralston, a Democrat politically, was never attached to any church.

The land lot "below" (probably meaning farther down the bank of the Cartecay river) the Nicholson property was believed to contain paying quantities of gold. This lot belonged to Newman Osborn, but title to it was later transferred

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A fantastic tale is quoted from the Richmond Whig of October 6, 1830, to the effect that Templeton Reid of Gainesville had established a private mint at Gainesville, Georgia (though they spelled it Grainsville).

Reid was reportedly coining gold in pieces of $10, $5 and $2.50 values.

The Augusta Courier estimated the amount being coined at $700 each day; profits, at a charge of 7 percent for coining, at $15,000 a year. Mr. Reid denied profits were as good as that.

If this report can be credited—or if half true—gold must have been plentiful around Gainesville at a period earlier than usually designated by chroniclers of those days.

**Davis was a lieutenant in the Mexican War.

to Alden Tucker. Prospectors confirmed their hopes by discovering gold here too, the yield, however, dwindling fast. This location soon ceased as a profitable vein. Considerable development was done on the gold lot next north of the Nicholson lot. This was owned by Matthew Davis and his brother. Their profits were not extensive.

A fabulous tale recites that prospectors sighted a great shiny bar of richly gold-encrusted ore lying on the bottom of the clear Cartecay river. It was believed to be solid gold, too valuable to risk grappling for. The river, or a portion of it, was diverted, the rich slab recovered and exhibited with profound impression. But next day it was gone—along with some of its finders.

Freeman Enters

Henry C. Freeman, a whiskery Northerner, came to Gilmer about 1879. He remained only about six years but made a tremendous impression with his plans and actual performances. He operated on Turniptown creek four miles northeast of Ellijay. He built a flume that began at Major Pritchett's, six miles up the creek and also a "bulkhead" on the hill above the Haley home, an area but wild land in those days.

He diverted the creek through a 10-inch pipe, 300 feet long, that narrowed to a nozzle of two inches. The water had a force that bowled over a white bull. Horace Holt stated he saw Freeman take a quart of gold at a time from his sluice boxes.

Freeman was the first man to set up, in the Gilmer gold diggings, a stamp mill to pound up gold ore prior to removing the gold content. The mill operated by an S-shape steel wheel propelled by water. The wheel continuously lifted and released iron weights. The released weights fell with the force of their own weight and momentum upon the ore.

This man also dug three tunnels on Little Turniptown creek. After Freeman went north to procure more capital and took sick and died there, a lull came to Turniptown operations and the stamp mill was moved to the Reece place on Cartecay river and set up there for further operations.

One of the last men to conduct gold operations around White Path and other gold-mining sections was a man named Zed Summerour, whose specialty was "finding veins." He is credited with re-discovering a gold vein in an old abandoned mine by the Cartecay river. For this service a man named Reece was said to have paid him $1,000.* He remained around White Path for a time and perhaps collected some money there but is not credited with aiding with further discoveries of gold in that area.

Gold, likewise, has been found near Cartecay, in Boardtown and at Cherry Log, as well as in the vicinity of a now discontinued post office called Licklog.

An unsuccessful effort was once made, near Roy, to divert the Cartecay river to procure the gold believed to be spread along its bottom. About two miles southeast of Roy gold has also been found.

Silver has been found near Cherry Log. Other minerals of value found in the County include iron, found; At Ore Knob, four miles from Ellijay near the mouth of Little Turniptown creek; a mile east of Ellijay and six miles south of Ellijay and at a point in Cherry Log district just south of the village and

*A geological atlas of the United States, Folio 187, contains additional data on Gilmer gold and other mineral resources. This source says that gold, both placer (in gold-bearing gravel) and in quartz veins was found near Roy.
Some of the gold, as on Turniptown creek, was in quartz veins also.

just across the railroad from the Bud Searcey home place. Considerable ore has been shipped from all of these mines. Sixty years ago the Cherry Log mine was active.

Talona valley contains, in addition to valuable whitestone, or dolomitic limestone; marble deposits, which are said to occur from White Path to Turniptown and near Cherry Log. Kaolin is found in Boardtown and near Roy and Licklog.

Valuable clay is abundant in the vicinity of Ellijay. Much of this has been used in the making of brick. It may also be turned into vitrified paving brick, drain tile and pottery. Clay of similar quality is also found in Ball Ground district.

We have record of the display of Gilmer gold in Dalton on April 29, 1860. It was said to have come from the "Cartecay mines."

CHAPTER 11

Around 1845

The County's far-reaching bounds in 1845 are suggested by the scattered post offices, Ellijay, Prince Edward,* Tacoa, Talking Rock, Blue Ridge. According to the census of that year the population of Gilmer was 4,558 whites, 149 negroes. The tax returns, three years later, were $871,000; one representative, then as now, was sent to the Legislature. We now share a representative with Pickens County.

Ellijay was described by an old author, George White, thus: "Ellijay is the capital of the county. It is situated on the northwest bank of the Ellijay river, 171 miles northwest of Milledgeville, 40 miles southwest of Blairsville, 35 miles northwest of Dahlonega, 40 miles north of Canton, 28 miles east of Springplace, 43 miles from Murphy, North Carolina. Population 150. It has courthouse, jail and five stores. The place is said to be healthy. Public buildings located here in 1834."

Gilmer County, this man reports, had at that distant date "a healthy climate." But in certain sections of it there was "considerable sickness." Some of the ills of the people were pneumonia and pleurisies (perhaps "flu"). Cancers were common (perhaps aggravated by the pioneer's large consumption of meat, especially pork). There seems to have been a man at the time who claimed to cure cancers through "charms." He enjoyed the confidence of a portion of our population.

The pioneers of Gilmer County certainly dodged "old man death" artfully. Some of the oldest inhabitants were Mr. Underwood (first name probably Elijah), over 80, in fine health, a pioneer teacher of upper Gilmer; James Kell was more than 90. There was a man named Smith above 90, and a Mrs. Ellis as old; a Mrs. Carrol, 84; George Brock and his wife were both above 80. A Mrs. Cox was already 84. A Mrs. Lucy Harris and another woman called Mrs. Longcaird were both beyond 85.

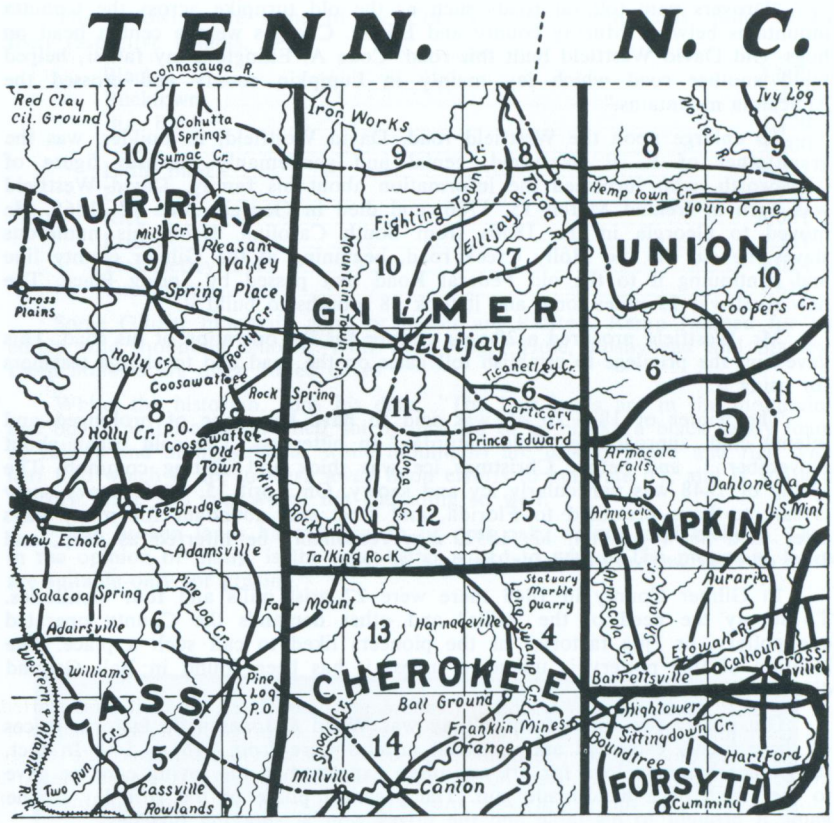
Daniel H. Smith, an old timer, recalls in 1913 some early scenes. His father, William S. Smith, lived on Brier Creek.

"My uncle, Joe Slate, discovered the first gold at White Path. My father found the first gold discovered in his neighborhood. This was on Brier Creek in the year 1844**.

"Old Gilmer was a rough country in those days. I first went into politics in 1844. Polk and Clay were presidential candidates. I was for Polk, and "Old Dan Tucker" was a sort of battle hymn with us. We painted the world red with poke berries, leaving none for the jay-birds. All I know about fighting I learned in those days battling with Whig boys, although I was but twelve years old. We beat the Whigs in Gilmer.

"I was in Ellijay one election when Jack Alexander and Joe Pickett were running for representative. Old man Jack rolled out a barrel of corn whiskey, put a faucet in it and set tin cups on the head—voters, help yourselves. And they did! Not everybody got drunk but enough to make up a dozen or so fights; no shooting or cutting, but plenty of black eyes, bloody noses and occasional split heads that had collided with a stick or rock. Yes, old Gilmer was rough and she was tough. Everybody, pretty nearly, was poor; no money, and nothing to buy money with. I could have hid behind a dime set up edgeways.

*Probably named for a county in Virginia.
**Not confirmed by other historians of his time.



COUNTY AND ENVIRONS, 1845

"And what sort of folk were these people of the rude old days? Better than you have now. They would fight, knock down and drag out, go home and get sobered up, come back and help you roll logs, build your house, run for the granny, wait on your sick, bury your dead and mingle genuine tears with yours when sorrow came."

William Ellington, last of the pioneers, born here November 23, 1836, before the removal of the Indians, reminisced in a vein similar to Mr. Smith's. It was 1926 when he said:

"In the old days drunks piled about the streets of Ellijay. There were no arrests for drunkenness. Intoxication was no disgrace. There was a free flow of brandy and corn whiskey, which sold for thirty-five cents a gallon.

"Gold digging was on full blast at Dahlonega. This point and Augusta were chief markets for Coke Ellington and other early merchants and drovers who plodded along behind their trampling horses, mules, beef cattle, and hogs. In those days livestock walked to such markets as there were.

"Drovers paid toll on roads such as the old turnpike across the Cohutta mountains between Murray county and Ellijay. Charges were a cent a head on hogs. Old David Westfield built this road. Coke A. Ellington, my father, helped build another road which lay mainly in Lumpkin county and crossed the Amicalola mountains."

To enlarge upon the Westfield road, David Westfield, its builder, was the grandfather of R. F. Westfield, genial and gentlemanly business figure of Chatsworth, who furnished me information about his family. David Westfield was born in Ireland March 15, 1786, and died in Georgia June 12, 1865. He moved to Georgia in the 1840s from South Carolina. Using his numerous slaves, he cut the old Holly Creek road, beginning at the Gilmer county line and continuing it to the old Federal Road that passed by Spring Place. The new road was 25 miles long, and it took 18 months to build it.

Mr. Westfield procured a 20-year charter for the operation of his road. This gave him the privilege to establish toll gates on the road and to charge travelers for using it.

The winter of 1845 to 46 was said to have been one of prolonged and intense cold, approaching "Cold Saturday" in bitterness. The cold began about November 1, and before Christmas ice was thick and skating common. The spring of 1848 was particularly icy and snowy. On April 15, 1849, heavy snow is said to have prevailed to Florida, and frost was abundant for many days after that. Snow on Jan. 12, 1851, may reasonably be inferred as deep, and June of 1864 was very cold for the time of year.

In Gilmer County in 1845 there were 22 grist mills and four distilleries. To supply the need of the "stills" and other demands the County operated one pottery, or "jug factory," as the pioneers liked to call such a place. The location of this pottery is unknown unless it has been found in Ball Ground district.

Out nearly two miles from Ellijay was Wood & Jones' rifle factory. Prices of these highly esteemed and practical articles were from $15 to $40. In fact, the pioneer's innate love for art was often expressed in the loving care he gave to the finish of a hand-made gun. The practical phase of the rifle lay in the game it brought to his table and the prizes won at shooting matches.

John D. Nelson was one of Gilmer's most noted rifle makers. He bought steel bars already bored to order, to which he added rifles, from Leman of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He considered his guns superior to the Krag, Marlin and other contemporary brands. He sometimes sold rifles to emigrants going West. Old Nelson "rifle guns" were long heirlooms in mountain homes.

The principal mountains in what was Gilmer County in 1845 were Cohutta, Frog, Cole, Bald, Long Swamp, Amicalola, Turniptown, Talona, Sharp Top, and numerous others not recorded by early historians. Here, as is generally customary, more or less isolated and higher portions of mountain chains, have individual names. Low places between peaks are termed gaps—seldom passes. The chief mountains of modern Gilmer would include Talona, Amicalola, Howell, Bird, Bucktown, Tickanetley Bald, Walnut, Owltown, Flat (or Flat Top), Potato Patch, Double Knobs, Rocky, Cohutta, Stover, Northcutt, Lill, Hickory Nut, Wolf Pen (2), Horsepen, Aaron, Cole, Catpen, Springer, Rich, Rocky, Little Bald, Big Bald. There are many others, some of which are not named. A few mountains, such as Burnt, Black and Bushyhead, extend into neighboring counties. It is a surprise to a person going westward for the first time over the Henry Grady Highway to see how far Gilmer goes into the Cohutta range and how many impressively lofty mountains of that chain are either partly or wholly in the County. Some mountains are called knobs, as the Double Knobs.

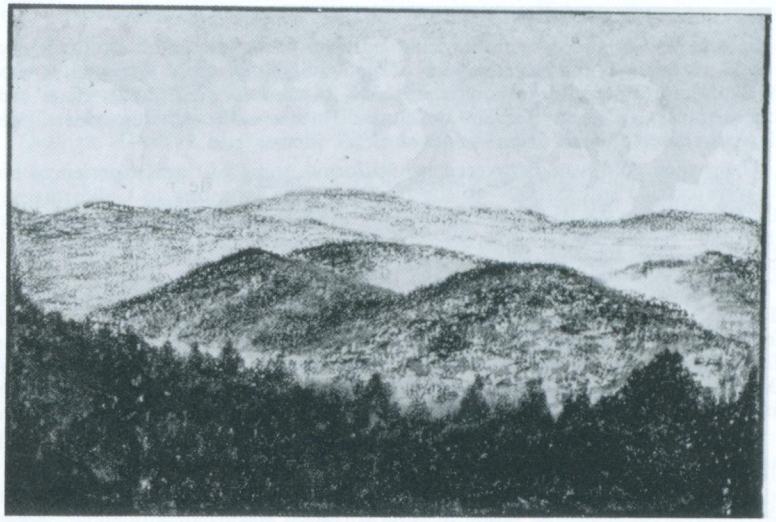
The following are some of the County's largest mountains, followed by their respective heights.

Black	3,600
Bucktown	3,400
Big Bald	4,120
Cold	3,200
Little Bald	4,021
Flat Top	3,750*
Rich	4,081
Rocky	3,541
Tickanetley Bald	4,054
Turniptown	3,614

Some Gilmer mountain gaps, or passes are Ralston, Ramp (named for an edible wild mountain onion), Wolf Pen, Auger Hole, Bushyhead and Stanley. Deep hollows are often called coves.

White, the historian, adds his data: "The best lands are in the mountains and on the water-courses. Their soil is inclined to be black (a black sandy loam in valleys and along streams, while mountains are usually black and rich with leaf fold which is apt to wash away upon efforts to cultivate it), and is adapted to corn, oats, and rye, wheat not succeding so well.

"The broken lands have a growth of post oak, walnut, and hickory. This, in the opinion of many, is the land better suited to wheat. The mountain lands are suitable only for grazing."



MOUNTAIN SCENE FROM BIG BALD
with an artistic touch by Robert C. Adams

*Computed by Dr. Garland Peyton and his staff at the State Department of Geology.

In this White is mistaken. The mountains are usually rich soil; and lofty, isolated portions such as the Fowler Top, Aaron, Rich and Flat Top have been cultivated successfully with fine yields of grain. Newt Dyer once declared rye grew so abundantly on Flat Mountain that "you could throw your hat on top of it and the hat wouldn't sink in."

Peaches, apples and grapes all grew well on the Aaron mountain. White potatoes grew notably well on all the mountains; likewise turnips and berries. Explorers of high mountains east of Cherry Log report seeing old house sites long since abandoned. Some of these may have been Indian homes.

Even mountain sides might have continued to yield abundant crops if they had been terraced by the pioneers, as has been done in some foreign lands. For years the top of Flat mountain supported a community of pioneer-spirited folk, and not all of its fertility is gone yet. We never heard of any effort to conserve the soil nor of its being spared from any abuses. One still sees fair crops far up the sides of North Carolina mountains. And such a sight, on a small scale, can be seen in Gilmer yet.

Resuming the language of White's record, we learn "that best lands average $10 an acre. The uplands are worth about $4." One of the amazing things of the immediate past and the last few years has been the rise of the uplands, on account of the dwindling supply of lumber trees. Bottom lands continue to rise. The prospects are that lands of all types will double in value every few years, with little regard as to their location. Urban real estate has been at a high valuation in Gilmer for a long time.

White also stated, "Gold exists at White Path six miles north of Ellijay on the road to Blairsville. The mines at this place embrace three lots owned by different persons, and have been worked for three years.* One hundred and twenty pennyweight of gold in one mass have been found in this locality. Cartecay mine 10 miles east of Ellijay is a rich deposit mine."

Before we say more on mines and mining, we might add that Dahlonega and that area began the development of gold mines in upper Georgia. It gave men the opportunity to develop every skill needed to find gold, made real, practical miners of them. Gilmer developed further skill and ruggedness, men having moved to Gilmer from the gold fields farther east.

Then when gold was discovered in California, some of these experiences and skills were carried still farther—to the far West. The long trek to California was continuing January 22, 1852, as recorded by the Cassville Standard, a newspaper of that day. Temperatures below zero and deep snows failed to dampen ardor to be off on the long and bitterly toilsome journey.

Leaving Gilmer, the paper states, "for California gold fields," were John E. Price, Henson Chapman, Joseph R. Love, John W. Tatum, Hiram Roach, Jefferson Steele, Thomas Jones, John Jones, Jonathon Cox, Jasper Johnson, J. F. Ellington, John P. Nelson, Joseph K. Williams, John Stephens, A. Stephens, N. Williams, and R. M. Griffith. Jackson Ayers is known to have gone in the California gold rush, but probably at an earlier date than did others listed here.

Of other departing miners, the little newspaper was able to offer only surnames, as West, Neel, Moore, and Dillard.

Again White: "Iron ore of a very excellent quality is abundant. Beautiful marble, white, variegated, is found in several places, and it is confidently asserted that it is not to be excelled by any in the United States. Between sixty and seventy hands are kept in constant employ in the quarries. Good millstones are found on Talona creek." The quarries mentioned were evidently in what is now

*An important statement: for it places the opening of the White Path mines as in the year 1842.

Pickens County. The old writer also mentions a mineral spring (evidently White Path) on Brier creek; also various other springs of similar nature.

In speaking of the people here in that day he likewise records, "This county has been settled by people from various places. They are kind and hospitable, not inclined to industrious habits, and not sufficiently interested in the subject of temperance. In political matters they are well informed, but in agricultural knowledge we think there is room for improvement. Bear hunting is a popular amusement. The Cohutta mountains at certain seasons abound with bears and they often fall victims to the sure aim of the Gilmer rifle."

Strange to say in the middle of 1849 Fightingtown was in Gilmer, presumably a part of Boardtown. This section contained people named Green, Bearden, Dunn, Parish, Early, Richey, Scoggins, Beards, and King. Southward, Gilmer extended to the heart of Jasper, present seat of Pickens County. Blaine (Old Talking Rock) was in Gilmer. Eastward the same territory included Amicalola Creek. Northward we ran to North Carolina and Tennessee and passed north and south on the western edge of Morganton. On the west, however, the Murray-Gilmer line has throughout our history remained much as it is today.

A little south of Boardtown were people named Dodgins, Garrett, Sims, Frady, Robberson and Sumerford.

We learn from the book called "Historical Collections of Georgia," by Rev. George White, and published by Pudney & Russell, 19 John Street, New York, 1854, some additional facts about the growth and development of Gilmer County after the foregoing stage.

"This county was named after the Honorable George R. Gilmer and was laid out in 1832. The county site was an old Indian town, Elija." White Path was the chief of the community. The public places of the county in those days were Prince Edward, Tacoa, Talking Rock and Blue Ridge.

"Among those who first settled in the county were B. Chastain, James Cody, Alexander Kell, Benjamin Griffith, L. Holt and C. Cooper; J. E. Price, John P. Alexander, Samuel Jones, E. Chastain, A. Johnson, J. A. Johnson, E. Gibson, James Simmons, Jacob Gibson, C. Goble, J. C. King, S. Griffith, H. K. Quillian, Thomas M. Burnett, William Cox, B. M. Griffith, and others."

An extract from the Census of 1850 reveals the following: Dwellings, 1,396; families 1,396; white males, 4,242; white females, 3,994; free colored males, 3; one free colored female. Total free population, 8,240; slaves, 200; Deaths, 54. Farms, 577; manufacturing establishments, 5. Value of real estate, $551,451; value of personal estate, $233,115. The last two amounts total $784,566, considerably off for total tax returns of 1848.

The Indian Chief White Path accompanied John Ross to Washington in 1834. White Path later died upon his westward removal and was buried at Hopkinsville, Ky. During his last illness the people of the neighborhood—whites, of course—showed the old chief marked kindness. From the proceeds accruing from the sale of his watch they erected a monument to mark his grave.

To quote White further, "Talona, south of Ellijay seven miles (10 miles at least. Editor) was sometimes called Sanderstown after the principal chief, George Sanders, who kept a house of entertainment on the Federal Road there and was considered a highminded man.

"Sanders also accompanied Ross to Washington.* His fate was like that of White Path. For at Raleigh, N. C., upon his return he was taken sick, and died."

*Thus two Gilmer men were in the Cherokee group.

The "high-mindedness" attributed to George Sanders was probably impressed by Talloney mission workers, who had already been at work at Talloney 15 years. The community was sometimes referred to, on old maps, as Carmel (or Talloney).

When a railroad entered Gilmer County, the ancient name Talloney (finally, Talona) was applied to a railroad station some six miles to the north and west, a title that sticks; also to a post office for a long time, as well as a creek that flows southward and joins Talking Rock creek about a mile northeast of the mission site.

The name Talking Rock, at the same time, was transferred to the site of old Love's, three miles east, where railroad facilities were available. The village that lost its name assumed the name Blaine, after James G. Blaine, once a candidate for President. All these points were, of course, once in Gilmer.

White also says that Mountaintown was situated in the eastern part of Gilmer, when, as a matter of fact, it is in the northwestern section—and always has been. He also states Cartilana was the principal chief.

In 1850 Ellijay had five stores and a population of 150. Around 1852, where the Hyatt Hotel (remodeled into the new courthouse) now stands, there was a leading establishment, conducted by Benjamin Johnson, which seems to have been a general merchandise store. N. L. Osborn and W. R. Welch, as young men, clerked in the establishment.

Jurors

January Term Of Court, 1855

John Dillinger, John W. Griffith, Daniel Smith, William May, Jr., Charles Conley, Thomas Debord, Alfred Roberds (Roberts).

February Term

L. P. Smith, Stephen Griffith, J. S. Oneil, S. J. Thompson, A J. May, William Webb, B. Johnson.

March Term

S. E. Whisenant, W. R. Griffith, J. W. Gunter, David Dotson, W. H. Banks, A. Z. Densmore, J. O. Quillian.

April Term

John Pickerell, David Allain (Allen), Western R. Welch, H. W Long, M. J. Hunnicutt, Joseph Pinson, John Elliott.

On June 18, 1931, Peter G. Hyatt, highly efficient and faithful postmaster at Tails Creek September 20, 1877, till his death, was 83. At the time he reminisced on early days at Ellijay, where he was born. The Watkins corner, north of the new courthouse, he recounted, was first occupied by a log house, probably put there in Indian days. The Watkins Building, recently moved farther north, was built and succeeded the pioneer structure in 1853. The saloon of Peter Miller was about thirty feet north of the original location of the Watkins Building. The Ellijay post office was once in the same Watkins Building. Moses Greer also once kept the post office in his home just opposite the Watkins home, where Mrs J. H. Ray long operated a boarding house.

Financially, P. G. Hyatt got an early start. The morning of his birth, June 18, 1848, Peter Patterson (who later migrated to Texas where he is said to have built the first house in Waco) called at the Hyatt home. Patterson offered the new baby $20 if it were named Peter, after himself. Then a lawyer named Glenn presented himself and offered it $20 more if "Glenn" became a part of its name. Both offers were accepted, and the baby was forthwith christened Peter Glenn Hyatt. A negro slave made young Peter Glenn a saving bank for his newly acquired cash. He kept up the saving habit during all his subsequent life.

CHAPTER 12

Background: Social, Economic, Cultural

A. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC

We offer a few main strokes by way of sketching early developments north and west of the Chattahoochee river. Many features of the background would apply with equal force to Gilmer and other counties carved from the Cherokee country.

As it appears to us faster living moderns, the progress of that day seems as the motion of an iceberg rather than anything comparable to the jet propulsion we know. But, like the force of the berg, it finally prevailed.

This was the last portion of Georgia opened for settlement by white people.

Generally speaking, these incoming folk were of a hardy, energetic type. This was due partly to European inheritance and the cool, stimulating American climatic belt from which they migrated. Industry was natural to them. Others constituted an element that has perpetuated backwardness. But it is surprising how fast a majority of our people get behind a progressive move.

The white pioneer profited from the land-clearing and tilling, fruit trees, crops and livestock already introduced by the Indians. While settlers came in promptly, they had to work a long time before they realized many material and social advances.

At first, they depended largely on the game and fish, gradually supplementing with cultivated rye, corn, wheat, potatoes, beans, pumpkins and melons the bounty of nature. Living people can remember much pioneer custom. Many of us lived it, and phases of it survive to the present. The County is gradually emerging from such ideas and practices.

The farmer, in winter, cleared and fenced land, cut and hauled logs to house sites, usually erecting with his own hands and those of other members of his household his own home and out-buildings.

As time advanced, many of the logs went by the community or portable sawmill, set up only as long as timber lasted, and, after conversion into lumber, into houses, furniture and other uses. That early, our waste, with characteristic pioneer prodigality, of timber began. Few if any of us can remember an original Indian log cabin such as were appropriated, in many cases, immediately upon the removal of the Indians.

Not later than 1856 sawmills were being moved about the County. But these must certainly have been old "slash" saws going to some point such as the falls of Boardtown creek for permanent installation.

But, up until near the close of the past century, the average man still depended upon hewn logs and rived boards for his house. Dwellings were mostly of the smaller type, not unlike the Indian cabins found in the County by the first settlers.

Squarish nails that rusted easily were the first factory-made nails, having succeeded a type made by local blacksmiths. The square nails were referred to as eight, ten and other "penny"—not by number.

Each neighborhood had its little circle of friends who met frequently to help each other at spring log rollings, fall corn shuckings (a custom still not unknown), house-raisings (carried on any season as emergency might require.)

The season for the opening of rural schools has nearly always been between corn "laying by time" and "fodder pulling" of late summer; that is, school began about July 15 and suspended about September 15. Though these old customs and distinctions, under the newer and longer-termed schools, have wholly disappeared.

This too has long been the period for religious revivals. The fine cool evenings of August are ideal for night meetings.

Haymaking has never been extensive. The season for that began in June. The meagerness of this crop has been due to scarcity of moist bottom land and machinery with which to cut the grass. The profusion of herd's and crab grass growing late in the corn fields, after they have been laid by, has seldom been harvested. It is too succulent to dry readily but is rich enough in food value.

One sport in the northern and eastern sections of the County was also, like hunting, of profit. That was chestnut gathering. It was referred to as "picking up chestnuts." This crop was usually marketed promptly, and at a good price. A few wild chestnut trees left on a cleared hillside paid well. But most of the chestnuts came from the wild mountain areas. Anybody who wished gathered nuts. The owners of the vast uninhabited chestnut woods made no effort to post or otherwise restrict nut hunters.

The black and white walnut, the filbert, or hazel, and the chinkapin constitute the nut crop worth while, and the chestnut and black walnut were the only crops of sufficient importance to be put on the market.

September is syrup time before the early mountain frosts. Syrup making and fodder tying are about the only farm work attempted after nightfall, the boiling of syrup often being continued all night. But syrup making is near the vanishing point in spite of good prices for the syrup.

The growing of clay and other field peas used to be an enormous crop. These were picked in October. Perhaps the crowding of Irish and sweet potato and other harvests into this particular time caused the cultivation of peas to decline. The bean beetle has curbed the once fine and free cultivation of beans, often beyond home needs. Truck growers, have thinned his forces, however.

In the rush of fall came the pastime of gathering wild grapes, known as muscadines. These and the fox grape are the only Gilmer wild grapes worth gathering.

We had our quiltings, muster days (for training, at first, for defense against possible Indian outbreaks), cock fights and wedding festivals. Hunts were of great variety, but the main ones were for deer, bear, foxes, coons, squirrels and rabbits. "Varments" were predatory animals like minks, opossums and foxes. A weasel in the hen-roost was quickly damaging. New chicken houses protect the birds.

The shooting match declined with the abundance of game. While the muster brought out the old flintlock, and often even the bow and arrow, the shooting match persisted into the age of modern fire-arms; but saw its peak in the time of the accurate cap-ignition rifle. Bud Hice owned a gun that was once a flintlock rifle. For this gun, Waitzel Hice once cleared the land where Mrs. Dona Smith formerly lived.

One sport was the capturing of live wolves, once numerous in the County, and the pitting of them against dogs. Ellijay, being the approximate geographical center of Gilmer, oftenest witnessed such contests. C. A. Ellington had a dog

that lunged against the side of a wolf in preparation for a more effective attack. Knocked down unexpectedly, the wolf did not put up so fierce a fight as he could on his feet. One man captured a litter of wolf whelps down on Flat Creek, in Leaches district, and distributed them about Ellijay for pets.

Fishing was not only a day or night pastime but constituted a substantial source of food supply. Catfish, large trout, or bass, and eels bit best at night. In the daytime, smaller fry, along with larger, more desirable fish, were apt to be lured.

As late as the 1890's many fine large fish were still being netted by seining.

Swimming in the chilly mountain streams has always been a much relished pastime. In many highly rugged sections pools suitable for this sport have always been most rare or lacking entirely. But, in the gentler slopes of the valleys, especially south of the Blue Ridge, they are fairly numerous, and the water warmer.

Aaron Smith, who was a citizen of Ellijay in 1838, recalled a crude prank played in Ellijay that year. It would probably illustrate some of the native craving for fun and the horseplay that used to satisfy it. Upon one occasion the town was full of people, many of whom remained till after nightfall. Some of the village pranksters borrowed a bedcord and stretched it tightly across the street just above the jail of that day, and about twelve inches from the ground. After setting this trap, the "boys" went still farther down the street and engaged in an uproarous sham battle. They made all the noise in their power—and waited results.

People about the square rushed in a stampede northward, choking Dalton Street. Everybody wanted to see the fight, or what sounded like one. As each man came to the rope, he was likely to be tripped heavily forward, falling flat on his face on whatever chanced to be in the way.

This went on till a great row of victims, some piled on others, lay sprawling the width of the street. They formed such a windrow they suggested casualties after a sanguinary battle, while the boys who had set the trap stood aside, their yelling changed into loud laughter.

In late May came a pastime that resulted in good eating as well as fun for the youngsters. This was picking wild strawberries, which start and spread in almost any old fallow field that is fertile and neither over-sunned or over-shaded. Cool north sides of hills were the best spots. The flavor of these berries is unsurpassed. Their local cultivation is an easy and profitable task.

The arrival of new apples, in those days of home storage or no fruit, was hailed with jubilation. And few apples taste better than a Gilmer red June that has ripened to a deep red on the tree. The streaked Astrakhan ripened at the same time, and the early harvest, luscious and yellow, finally came in.

Blueberries (always, colloquially, huckleberries) and blackberries have always been esteemed, as their quality is superior. The gathering of them was as much a pastime as a labor. The yield of such crops—both wild—on such mountains as Flat Top was almost unbelievably luxuriant and lavish. These delicious berry crops, almost destroyed by woods-burnings and grazings, are coming back with State and Federal protection.

While the pioneer made much cloth, his product was mainly woolen. He also consumed, from distant manufactories and markets, a variety of weaves finer than he could make. Sheep, while kept for their mutton as well as their wool, were probably esteemed more for their wool than for their flesh. Flocks of sheep were common even beyond the close of the last century. Wolves, at first, constantly menaced these. Much of the fleece was laboriously carded by

hand on small cards obtained through local merchants. Large amounts also went to commercial carders like those of the Athertons at Talking Rock and the McKinneys at Chestnut Gap, outside of the County; but Gilmer carders existed, as elsewhere noted. For the services of the carder, people paid either cash or toll. The finished product of the carder was fluffy rolls ready for spinning.

These were spun into both light and heavy threads. From the lighter were woven coverlets, wrap and cloth for milder-weather garments. Coarser threads became blankets, lindsey, and jeans, for cold weather clothing. Cotton garments, also, were likewise made from raw cotton, imported, of course, from those sections that grew it.

Pieced, or crazy, quilts in abundance answered hard winter demands. Feather beds were a standby. The tick stuffed with straw served as a mattress in many instances.

Thread was spun on brooches, then run into hanks, afterwards placed in quills to be finally confined in a shuttle, a familiar sight to the child of earlier generations, as it shot back and forth between threads of a family loom. Cloth thus woven was often dyed with copperas, walnut hulls and roots—even leaves and flowers.

There was not much wheat, but plenty of corn, rye, potatoes, beans and a fair variety of less staple garden vegetables such as onions, beets, cabbage; apples and peaches have always been fairly abundant, though the problem of late frosts remains. With mauls men pounded apples to a pulp and from that pressed fine clear cider, using for leverage a pole with its butt in a tree and withes to the tip.

Within the recollection of this generation, a few houses of the genuine primitive type survived. One was occupied by a family named Aaron on the Aaron Mountain, which took its name from the family. The floor was smoothly trodden and packed dirt. There were no boards used. This custom was common enough in the old days, and accounts in part for the fearful inroads of tuberculosis in pioneer Gilmer. Whole families were exterminated by it. This Aaron family thus suffered. Their ambition, mental alertness and great physical force also showed the effect of climate on the human organism. The low mean average temperature of their lofty home site gave them a highly superior climate, and served to prove, further, that the more "mountainy" we are the more likely we are to possess innate superiority.

The old crude puncheons and plank benches, that seemed designed on the idea that discomfort is a virtue, are just now being discarded. These had misfit backs and never seemed fully decided just how to stand, and, while one end was jumping up the other was bumping down.

Cooking, eating, and sleeping were usually confined to one room or a main room and a shed room. And the people who had a big house and a kitchen both, or an ample two-story home, were among the better to do. The family washing was usually done winter and summer at some stream or spring near the home. In spite of weird ideas and treatment regarding hives, colic, and other ills, and rough rocking in hollow-tree and plank cradles, babies survived, proving less the efficacy of their treatment than the part played by luck, chance, and the hardihood of their constitutions. Everybody breathed fresh air.

Poultry, then as now, was a large factor in supplying both home needs and a market that has proved one of the best paying of any developed since the County began. Geese and ducks were raised mainly for their feathers.

The old-fashioned mother kept an ash hopper. Rain or ground water, having been poured on ashes in this, leached out at a spout beneath, in the form of amber-looking lye. This lye assisted in the preparation of hominy and soap.

Gourds were used for various purposes, such as dippers, containers for sugar, soap, and soap grease. A big hornet's nest, with its fine insulation, often served as a safe storage place for winter eggs. Mush, or porridge, made of corn meal, with sweet milk, often made a rural supper.

But life, as a whole, was rather narrow, drab and barren. The ideas prevailing generally were fatalistic; life was futile; pessimism regarding human happiness and attainment here now ruled. Puritanic restraint made for innocence without giving strength of character to resist temptation and the wiles of sex sophistication when these inevitably came. There was always suppression and a discounting of joy and expression. Life was too serious a business to mix up with fun. The more industrious people worked very hard; life, to half of them, was little more than a treadmill. Few people expressed any hope of achievement out of their children. "Work" was physical labor, and a person who shunned that was "no account."

The abounding game that could at first be shot near the pioneer cabin consisted mainly of bear, deer, raccoons, opossums, grouse (called pheasants), quail (termed partridge), rabbits, while the streams offered plenty of fish. The mink, otter, beaver, muskrat, and raccoon were among the best fur bearers. Some of these animals such as the beaver and the wolf, are now nearly, extinct, and the older members of this generation saw the national supply of fish pass. Wild turkeys are now confined to remote sections like Bucktown and Ridgeway. The beat of a pheasant (grouse) today is something to wonder over.

Restocking streams with fish and protection of game by the state and federal government are bringing back some of the abundance of old days.

There is only a tenth part of the quail that used to burst up from their hiding right under your feet as you walked the winter woods or strolled over old fallow fields. Our vigilance against fires, thus providing the game birds cover and additional food and breeding grounds, has helped types like the quail. Deer are confined largely to government reservations and private preserves. One occasionally appearing along a public highway offers the youngster a sight most common 100 years ago. Large predatory animals such as the panther are extinct or reduced to a tradition. Bears only occasionally slip down thickly wooded ridges to raid beehives.

In spite of the rather narrow and more or less selfish appeal of the churches on the subject of individual "salvation," not to mention preaching of the severest literalness, little log churches nurtured moral and spiritual fiber. I have noted that where churches are and fearlessly proclaim righteousness, there is where the best people are.

Early churches handled little money. Sunday schools were rare. Their chief concern was to see men "saved" and to keep their members in what they called the straight and narrow path, which didn't sound like popularity was so all important. But it must be admitted that churches sometimes got credit for doing over (or anew) people who were spiritual aristocrats already, that is, were innately superior.

The importance of timber and lumbering continue of great importance.

The pioneer bartered much with his local merchant. He sold chickens, eggs, corn, peas, beans, timber for his needs in sugar, kerosene, clothing and other necessaries. Now people use cash.

In fact, money among the masses, their better clothes, houses and cultural advantages are among the chief differences between yesterday and today. We have quit making for ourselves, so that we are in as acute need of cash as the pioneers were.

B. CULTURAL

The Struggle to Develop Schools

The first generation of Gilmer people was almost as literate as that of 60 years ago. Really, mass education did not begin until roads came and transportation, longer school terms and consolidation were put into effect. Of course a compulsory school law helped to establish and maintain attendance.

The education of these early citizens was procured in older counties of Georgia and states like North Carolina, with their deeper cultural background and better developed educational systems.

The first schools of any kind were private, and this type of our cultural progress will be noted after we discuss the strictly public schools. The first teachers of these schools were paid no salary by the state of course, but depended upon collecting from their seldom rich patrons such meager fees as they could.

Schools were first provided by the Georgia Legislature in 1817 for those not able to pay for old field schools or were willing to accept the bounty of the State. These schools were called "poor schools." With their beginning, the state paid all or part of the teachers' salaries. It should be added that many of Gilmer's better to do and prominent citizens enrolled their children in the poor schools.

The first report of Gilmer schools was rendered May 9, 1839, data offered being on so-called poor schools for the years 1836, 1837, 1838. At any rate, the strictly public work was included in the report, and $140.94 was expended locally.

On March 4, 1839, the inferior court appointed the following citizens to direct the interests of public education: John E. Price, William Kimzey, B. B. Quillian, John S. James and Reece McClure.

In 1840 the Georgia Legislature changed the "common school fund" to the "poor school fund." Gilmer's inferior court, by way of conformity, appointed the following as "commissioners" to administer this fund: Coke A. Ellington, Sam Jones, Joseph Pickett, Daniel Quillian.

On Jan. 4, 1842, the inferior court appointed or renewed more commissioners of education: Daniel Quillian, Larkin Stephens, Coke A. Ellington, Samuel Jones, Joseph Pickett.

White says, about 1845, "schools are much wanted. Great interest is beginning to be felt toward them."

In 1843 a law was passed permitting county courts to levy a local tax "for the education of the poor." Only a few more than one-fourth of the "poor" children of Georgia received aid from the poor school fund, which was said to have been poorly administered.

On August 20, 1840, commissioners for the common schools received, for operations during 1839 and 1840, $434.49. In 1840 two "primary and common" schools were reported, with 70 students enrolled. For 1839 to 1840 schools received $434.49.

At this time (1840) there were in the County 220 persons 20 years of age or older illiterate. Ten years later illiterates numbered 1,510. But the population of the County was much greater then.

By 1850 marked progress had been made. There were eight public schools with eight teachers and 205 pupils. Public funds for their support were $617. There was also one "academy" (at Ellijay), with 30 pupils; 1,309 "attended" (presumably, as we say now, enrolled in) "public schools." Out of that enrollment, attendance, apparently, was 500. The old report adds "in white schools during the year 1,668 . . . . . educational income $6,659," which clearly must be a consolidation of resources.

Educational advantages at Ellijay kept considerably ahead of more strictly rural neighbors. For the State not only furnished funds for the erection of the old Gilmer Academy but supplemented this bounty, some authorities assert, from a fund derived from wild, unoccupied lands. For it was the early custom for the State to discharge its obligations to counties of Gilmer's status by expenditures at the county seat.

It is even remembered well by persons still living that the school at Ellijay was patronized almost exclusively by local people. There was no pretense at county-wide reach of advantages. Such a scheme would have been about all words and theory when applied to an area of 648 square miles, without roads, its people few and on the average very limited in means and badly scattered among a much larger number of Indians.

In fact, some of our best educated citizens of the early days were Cherokees and their instructors, as at Tal-loe-ney, opening under Moody Hall and other white instructors in 1819. It was located nearly two miles northwest of present Talking Rock in old Gilmer but later included in Pickens county.

Before the first academy building was completed, a man named John W. Bramlett had organized a school to be taught by himself in it. Mr. Bramlett should no doubt be accorded the honor of being Ellijay's first teacher. This was about 1835, and 16 years after Moody Hall established his school at Tal-loe-ney, later Carmel.

Mr. Bramlett was not a man of extensive education. But he was credited with being thorough. He taught only the commoner branches of an elementary or "English education." He rendered general satisfaction to his patrons, this being, in an important particular, because he was solicitous in a marked way for the progress of his younger pupils. A thing that magnified the importance of this phase of his aptness was the fact that all the larger boys and girls that might have been in school were more than likely to be at home at work.

Mr. Bramlett, who has numerous descendants still in the County, continued to teach until about the close of 1839. He was succeeded in 1840 by R. B. Perry; then came, in a similar capacity, William Irvine and John L. Reid. In 1849 Hiram P. Bell, later a member of Congress, was teaching here. J. C. Allen, M. C. Briant, Mrs. Caylor, Miss Belle Sutton and Mrs. Hansell were added to the teacher list through the years.

William Ellington II related to the author that he started to the academy in 1840, although he was only four years old. He recalled that, in a formal way, he learned very little the first year. "Whippings were coming pretty often in those days, and I was dreadfully afraid my turn would be next."

Reminiscing further in his old age, Mr. Ellington added, "There I sat all day with my feet dangling from a bench that was a way too high for me, and listening to the older boys and girls blab."

Gilmer was never prolific in the rural "old field" type of school. It came rather late for that, as the old field institutions ended about Civil War days. But schools of a kind, with many of the quaint characteristics of the old field sort, sprang up almost as soon as enough people got together to furnish patronage.

Such schools, according to Noah W. Pettit and others versed in the old lore and steeped in its traditions, were supported either entirely by the patrons or by the "poor school fund."

Talloney was the only one of Gilmer's first schools supported in part by the Federal government, this being because it instructed Cherokee boys and girls in "civilized arts and sciences," what we now call vocational work.

Usually the poor schools lived up to their name, housed as they were in wretched log cabins that were usually abandoned dwellings. The usual pattern for such shacks was a single door; windowless, they might have a wooden shutter for a single window; an open fireplace was something substantial, and they were seated with the hardest puncheon benches. Ichabod Crane would have grown nostalgic over one of these structures. On Flat mountain, school was held only in the summer and early fall, and girls and boys had separate sessions.

Just after the Civil War community school began, in at least one district, at six o'clock in the morning and lasted till six in the evening. And a strenuous day it was except that playtimes were three in number and lasted each an hour. Henry Pettit was well acquainted with such schools.

Courses of study were meager but not as deficient as one might think when he considers the poverty-ridden times. The pupils had some arithmetic, plenty of Blueback, which often served also as a reader (the author learned to read in one of these). The occasional readers were not illustrated until McGuffey revised came in. The first texts devoted fully to reading were pretty dismal—a heavy diet—for an elementary student. Geography was sometimes called frillish. Men later successful in business, but brought up in such schools, were often more ignorant of the location of important cities and countries of the world than are comparative tots of today.

As late as the years just preceding the establishment of what were really public schools, shelves, for writing desks, jutted out from dark schoolroom walls. Rather, the child with this much was lucky. For many others had to hump far over, a tiresome slant, on backless puncheons, using their laps as a desk.

Slates succeeded the old original combination of paper, goosequill and ink. Steel pens appeared about 110 years ago. Slates and slate pencils were used in the memory of many living persons. Their use continued till toward the end of the past century. A person brought up to use the slate usually wrote clumsily with pen and ink, and all but had to learn over again how to write. For a while after pencils and coarse tablets were introduced, part of the children were using those and others stuck a while longer to their slates and slate pencils.

Teachers of the early schools were not obliged to stand examinations of any kind or to live up to any high standard of service. In spite of that, occasional students coming out of their schools were what would still be called educated; but such standards were attained largely through innate superiority and self-help.

Around 1849 there appeared, among the names of school patrons, heads of families now rare or extinct in Gilmer, among these being Leach, Tay, Givins, Walden, Bryson, Goldsmith, Hancock, Grant, King, and others. Some of these names—Grant, for instance—have re-entered our rolls of citizenship.

Reports notarized by E. Smith and James Quarry came from district 1029, now Hothouse, up on the edge of North Carolina.

Also in the Gilmer of about 110 years ago there was a "district 794," now extinct but apparently mainly in Pickens county, in which lived: Davis Collins, B. B. Bradley, J. P.s, along with Coke Griffitts, Elizabeth Parker, Thomas I. Smith; also were surnames, Robey, Gibson, James, Stillwell, Martin, Roper, Godfrey, Burch, Wilkey, Love.

From similar old records we learn that Tails Creek children were named: Worley, Entire, Loe, Miller, Critchfield, Hardy, McFarlin, Higgins, Jenkins, Russell, Ivie, Summy, Arnold, Loudermilk, Owens, Moat, Sphears, Harrelson, Price, Moreland, Heath, Tatum.

Boardtown Reports

Names, in 1850, like Plemmons, Harain, Patterson, Moore, Burch, Sisson, were reported from Boardtown by John Whitener and E. Fain. Among school patrons of the time were E. Fain, Joseph Burch, William Moore, Stephen Holloway, J. J. Newberry, William Deal, Simon Bowan, Joseph J. Wood, Littleton S. Osborn, William R. Sims, Robert Kincaid, John Tucker, James Cody, John Jones, M. Morgan, Coalby Marler.

John Whitener, John Roberts, William Allen, Henry Collins, Andrew Daves, Jacob Miller, Needham Briant, William Key, George Hedden, John Chancey, William Rogers, Mrs. W. Smith, Henry Watkins, William Aaron, Jesse Odom, John Sellers, Lawson Hollis, Sampson Boatner.

It seems that E. P. Watson, J. P. (with the concurrence of J. C. Jones, a fellow J. P.), in the 1036th district, which apparently was in the proximity of Leaches or embraced it, petitioned the inferior court of Gilmer County, November 1850, to appoint James Simmons treasurer of that district.

This district contained 186 school children. As there is no such district today, the district of the number may have embraced territory now embraced in Pickens county.

It contained citizenship: Joseph Wadley. Lawrence Bradley, John Woodall, Theophilus Holcomb, Zebedee Slaton, Isaac Hazelwood, Reuben Fosset, Isaiah Rice, Ezekiel Akin, Benjamin Elders, Amaniaz Land, Henry Kilby, Ira Daring, Greenbury Wofford, John Scott, Cornelius Gibb, David McArthur, Elizabeth Tilley, Benjamin West, Lorana Duckette, William Worley, Isaiah McGash, Elender Riddel, Godfrey Heiss.

William Suddeth, Christopher Burch, Obadiah Wiggington, Benjamin Coward, Jesse Coffee, Cain Waldrop, Thomas Gravet, Reason Bell, William Sosbee, Francis Welchel, Jonathan Hewbanks, John P. Briant, Daniel Copeland, Ann Griswell.

In 1850, while William Erwin was clerk of the inferior court and B. Wilson was J. P. in Tails Creek district, Henry McFarlin, Riley Corban, Farmer Orr, Jacob Deal, William Jenkins, Conrad Low, Henry Griggs, John Nelson, Miles B. Ruel, David Tankersley, Solomon Loudermilk, Patten Ivy, Sam Summy were Tails Creek school patrons.

There were also people there named Motts, Buchanon, Heath, Pankey, and numerous others not included. Tails Creek then had a large population, nearly twice the school enrollment of Boardtown, and was much larger in territory than it is now.

From Leaches come names, some of which are still familiar: Briant, Stoaks, Goble, Silver, Brackett, Wilson, Kell, Collins, Hickman, Shepherd, Hyde, Payne, Taylor, Godsey, Smith, Langley, Gartrell, Freeland, Paul, Gentry, Corbin, Gravid, Sorrell, Roberts, Parks, Leach, Bagwell, Barnes, Powers, Keener, Gipson, Walker, Ogle, Fowler, Henderson, Ammons, Field, Willis, McClain, Turner.

In 1851 a list of school children for militia district 1029, a district number long extinct, was mailed from Hot House, now in Fannin county, to William Erwin, clerk of the inferior court. The fact that this area was later cut off to

form a part of another county explains the absence of the district number in the present county of Gilmer. Justices James Quarry and E. Smith signed the report.

Some Hot House patrons of the time were David Fain, John Hyatt, James Withrow, Thomas Dillard, D. M. Collins, David Ballew, Mason Tarpley, G. A. Thomas, Michael Cline, John Higgins, Elizabeth Richards, William Harper, Thomas Wilson, Levi Wilson, A. J. Hughes, L. A. Douthit (widow), Layton Hancock, G. F. Vaughn, John Fain, John Collis, A. Willis, William Burross, L. N. Cassidy, Samuel Ross, Harvey Magnis, James E. Dickey, Robert Dillard, M. A. Dillard, William Robertson, John Ballew.

A list continuing with: T. T. Lillard, Hiram Ross, Andrew Flowers, James Newton, T. J. Williams, David Thomas, B. E. Burgess, John Withrow, T. M. Edwards, Charles Smith, Robert McKay, David Walden, Elizabeth Jones, J. A. Bates, Solomon Stansberry Sr., John Auburn, A. Grant, William Givins, A. McKay, William F. Galloway, Wiley Walden, E. Walden, Lorenzo M. Douthit.

The names of the children of the foregoing citizens do not appear on the report with the heads of houses.

On Sept. 29, 1852, John T. Newberry deposed before B. F. Chastain, J. P., that he had taught for three months (Jan. 5, 1852 to March 30, 1852), "the said children being over the age of eight years and under 16." Mr. Newberry failed to give the names of his pupils. However the names of patrons appear, and these lead to the inference his school was in Mountaintown district.

These were T. W. Henson (credited, by the strange method of counting of his day, with "half a child"), James M. Ellis, John C. Robertson, A. R. Sawyer, Richard Head, Rachael Cole, Thomas Cole, James N. Bryson, "Widow" Sarah Ellis.

The claims of Mr. Newberry for his services during the school term totalled $12.93.

Teachers

"of the poor children"
for the year 1852

Allen, F. H., Allen, Thomas W., Anderson, James M., Ashworth, J., *Breward, V. P., Caloway, R. E., Chastain, James W., Church, C., *Collins, D. T., Curtis, J. W., *Dillard, J. L., Davis, S., Ellington, C. A., Falls, G., *Foster, R. B., Franklin, William,

Green, William, *Hill, William, Hunnycutt, M. J., *Johnson, J. M., Jones, A. B., *Kinzey, William, McClure, R. J., McClure, C. M., *Morgan, M. *Moss, L. C., Nelson, James L., Newberry, J. T., *Newman, A. A., Osborn, W. H., Palmer, N. H., *Pearcy, J. W.
*Also taught in 1853.

Elizabeth Proctor, at Talloney, was our first woman teacher.

Roan, T. R., Roberts, M. A. M., *Sheriff, A. M., Smith, Margaret, Smith, P. S., Stark, Thomas J. *Suddeth, James N., *Tatum, L. J., Threwitt, L. L., Trammel, Thomas R., Ward, James, West, A. J., *West, B. C., Whisenant, S. E., Withrow, J. W., Wofford, J. P.
*Also taught in 1853.

Only one woman appears in the entire foregoing personnel, and we believe she is first on records we have consulted. The amount of the poor school fund received from the state treasurer for 1852 was $942, and from the county tax collector, $95.

*Also taught in 1853.

Teachers, 1853

In addition to repeaters from 1852, the year 1853 had new teachers to take the place of those who had withdrawn from the teaching force of the year preceding. Among these were B. M. Hipp, J. P. Osborn, F. L. Osborn.

Allen, Elizabeth, Allen, J., Bailey, J., Bryson, A. J., Douthit, S. M., Echols, M. B., Edwards, W. A., Gillaspie, G. B., Griffith, James, Hipp, B. M., Hopper, William F., Hyde, C. W., Johnson, Jane E., Lenning, J. M., McEmeline, J. N., McLeod, L., Osborn, J. P., Osborn, N. L. Harris, James F., Seay, C., Stephens, James, Stone, L., Thomas, M. J., Raney, G. F., Vaughn, G. W., Underwood, James, West, J. M.

The amount received from the State Treasurer was $1072 for the year.

Teachers, 1854

Anderson, James M., Bankes, M., Bankes, S. A., Briant, M. C., Chastain, J. P., Chastain, J. W., *Collins D. T., *Dilliard, J. L., Griffith, James M., Harris, J. F., Hill, G. A., *Hill, W. F., Hopper, W. F., Horton, B. A., *Hunneycutt, M. C., Hyde, C. W., Inlow, J. G., Ivie, G. P., *Johnson, J. M., Kimzey, William W., *Morgan, M., Mulkey, G. W., Osborn, J. J., Penley, H., Price, W. D., Prince, C. D., Roberts, M. A. M., Sharp, J. M., Shelton, E. T., Stafford, J., Steel, James M., Stephens, B. M., Stephens, J. B., *Sudduth, J. N., Swain, C. C., Tatum, A. S., *Tatum, L. J., West, A. J., *West, B. C., West, H.

About 1854, an upheaval occurred in the Ellijay school. A portion of the children remaining in town was taught by Mrs. Watson Coleman, while the other children repaired to a building in an old pasture a mile or more out of town on the Chatsworth road. The house was located on the Brown property, so called until a year or so ago. This portion of the school was taught by Samantha Banks.

Teachers and Patrons, 1856

In addition to teachers whose school connections were not ascertainable, Briant, M. C.; Carnes, James; Garren, David; Honeycutt, Mary; Hyde, C. W.; Ivie, Thomas; Kitchen, F. M.; Lewis, Thomas D.; McArthur, T. M.; Morgan, Moses; Penland, James H.; Pettit, John; Tatum, Aaron S.; Stallings, T. J.; Stark, Thomas J.; Suddeth, James; Williams, Moses, we list other teachers of that year, together with the patrons of their school. Schools went by district numbers, which, being hand-written, are not always decipherable, and so are sometimes questioned.

Teacher, Chastain, Joseph P.; School District, 850(?); Patrons, Hardy Waddle, Littleton Akin, Zion Bridwell, James M. Rackley, William Loggins.

Teacher, Dooley, A. J.; School District, 1035; Patrons, William Silvers, John Silvers, James Adair, William Wilson.

*Also taught in 1853.

*Taught two preceding years.

Teacher, Green, William H.; School District, 907; Patrons, A. Dover, Isaiah Pless, N. E. Sheriff, Toliver Green, Burges Wood, Prenson Guess, Z. H. White, Hannah Allen.

Teacher, Heath, John; School District, 850(?); Patrons, Allen George, A. J. Strickland, John Quarles, John Buckhannon, James Rogers, Jacob Deale, Robert Mootes, Martin Call.

Teacher, Hill, G. A.; School District, 958; Patrons, Ransum B. Hall, Jonathan J. Prince, Friend Speer, Andrew Fore, William Plemmons, Levi Hipp, Eli J. Taylor.

Teacher, Hipp, B. M.; School District, 958; Patrons, M. L. Chilcut, Levy Hipp, Balus M. Hipp, Shijah James.

Teacher, Johnson, John M.; School District, 932; Patrons, Joseph Batson, Warren Souther, Giles Graham, J. Batson.

Teacher, Kimzey, William; School District, 932; Patrons, J. J. Newberry, William Clayton, N. Parris, Joseph Rann, John Walker, Thomas Key.

Teacher, Leach, John J.; School District, 1035; Patrons, Robert Obriant, William B. Smith, Lock Langley.

Teacher, McAlister, E. M.; School District, 958; Patrons Leander Lee, David Parker, Martha Obar.

Teacher, McMillian, J. M.; District, 932; Patrons, Isaac Cantrell, John Mulkey, David Evans, Anderson, Findley, G. B. Nelson, Alford Souther, David Mulkey.

Teacher, Newberry, J. J.; School District, 864; Patrons, Waddy T. Finley, J. J. Newberry, James C. Swancey, Henry Weaver.

Teacher, Russell, Elijah; School District, 850 (?); Patrons, Minerva Evans, Phillip Mulkey, S. W. Jones, John Wilson, John Mathis, Joseph Vanhorn, Rebecca Norris (or Evans).

Teacher, Reed, William; School District, 1136; Patrons, Matison Empley, Charlie Topton.

Teacher, Smart, James; School District, 850(?); Patrons, A. J. Killian, Aulston Painter, S. J. Sitton.

(Next school, taught by a university graduate, was one of the important schools of the County. For several years it ran ten months of the year. It was located on the hill where Buckhorn Baptist meeting house stands nine miles north of Ellijay in Boardtown District.)

Teacher, Tatum, L. J.; School District, 907; Patrons, Alfred Whitener, Henry Burch, Charlie Sisson, Oliver Harris, Hiram Searcey, David Godfrey, Joseph Birch, Mary Patterson, J. M. Godfrey, Asa May, Sampson Boatner, William Key, James Patterson, Erwin Dover, Jarrett Birch, Robert Searcey, Rice Key, Isaiah Pless, J. J. Wood, R. Blackstock.

There were undoubtedly other patrons in this, as well as other schools listed, that do not appear on this roster.

Teacher, Underwood, James; School District, 1035; Patrons, Josiah Frisby, William Webb, Charles W. Hyde, James Underwood, M. J. Honeycutt.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS 1859

District	District Number	District	District Number
Ellijay	1	Moore's	17
Owltown	2	Flat Branch	18
Cagle Center	3	Osborn School House	19
Scrougetown	4	Douglass	20
Coggins	5	Mountaintown	21
Ralston	6	Sharps	22
Gates	7	Nine Miles	23
Bucktown	8	Yancy	24
Punching Town	9	Leaches	25
Punching Town	10	Willis	26
Turniptown	11	Davis	27
Clear Creek	12	Tatum's Mountain	28
Ticanetley	13	Giles Carroll	29
Fossetts	14	John Burges, Tails Creek	30
Berry's	15	Town Creek	31
Fain's	1	Whidens	32

Public schools were suspended during the Civil War. But as soon as we could get on our feet afterward we created a public school system. This was in 1870.

TEACHERS OF GILMER 1871

The following list of teachers deserves special honor. These are the true and sacrificing types who consecrated themselves to their task and carried the public school system along its first stumbling steps on the path of progress. They held on and saw educational improvements established in spite of meager salaries and long deferred payments of those. In 1878 $532.12 was still due them.

Teachers, District 864 Ticanetley; Chastain, H. M., Clayton, J. W., Kimsey, J. B., Kimsey, W. W., Powell, J. M., Stephens, W. C.

Teachers, District 932 Cartecay; Kennemur, A. D., Miller, W. H. H., Pettit, J. F., Roberson, E. J., West, J. F. M., West, Marion J.

Teachers, District 1081 Ball Ground; Allen, W. A., Roberson, M. J., Russell, E.

Teachers, District 1009 Tails Creek; Crawford, Z. T., Hill, J. W., Ivey, W. T., Martin, J. B.

Teachers, District 958 Mountaintown; Hill, G. A., Hill, W. F., Painter, Thomas, Triplett, T. H.

Teachers, District 850 Ellijay; Bryant, G. W., Dillingham, David, Ellington, A. F., Gates, George G. (W?), Griffin, J. C., Sharp, J. H., Withrow, John W.

Teachers, District 907 Boardtown; Gates, Thomas; Johnson, William M.

Teachers, District 1095 Leaches; Dooly, A. J.

Teachers, District 1136 Cherry Log; Sharp, John M., Stone, W. P.

Teachers, District 1135 Town Creek; Blalock, S. M., Pickett, Columbus.

N. L. Osborn, the County's first school commissioner, seems to have taught this year also, probably in Mountaintown district.

Since Ridgeway (1274), Coosawattee (1302), Diamond (1341), Alto (1355), and Bucktown (1498) districts did not then exist, several districts were much larger and more populous than they were after the creation of these districts.

A plan for establishing free schools for Georgians was forming many years before the creation of Gilmer County and the opening of the old academy. An act of December 19, 1829, set aside funds for schooling the poor and for academies. December 22, 1829, another act provided better distribution and application of the poor school fund.

This act was amended Dec. 24, 1832, so as to distribute such funds among counties "in proportion to representative population according to last census."

An act based upon investigations of a legislative committee of 1836 marks another step ahead. An act to actually establish a general system of education was approved Dec. 26, 1837. January 1, 1839, academic and poor schools became known as a "common school" fund.

On Dec. 29, 1839, the second and third sections of this act were repealed and each county was made an educational unit. In 1859 Gilmer County was divided into 32 school districts and each was named. Some of these seem to have been still in Fannin. Among all these schools only Ellijay, Tickanetley and Tails Creek bore names still familiar.

Gilmer and Gordon counties, 1860, were said to have authorized complete county systems of free schools. This statement is based upon a law (assented to Dec. 16, 1858) for organizing and operating a poor school system. The Georgia Guide (p 99) states that these two counties established the first free county schools for all classes.

An act approved Dec. 18, 1866, established a general system of schools for Georgia, and another (approved Oct. 13, 1870) provided for the operation of public schools for 1871, and fixed school pupil ages at 6 to 18. This law, in turn, was modified Jan. 19, 1872. An act to provide for organizing a public school system for Gilmer County was approved Aug. 24, 1872. The law was repealed the 22nd of the next February, however.

The general school law had been improved August 23, 1872, and thereupon superseded other laws upon education. But schools, generally, suspended for lack of funds in 1872. However, Gilmer (probably by virtue of their old special act or the general act of 1870) operated public schools during both 1871 and 1872, at least for two or three months, probably on a basis of local supplements to an anticipated one dollar for each child of school age. This sum apparently went long unpaid. For the Georgia Legislature, by special act March 2, 1875, appropriated funds for the payment of Gilmer teachers who had labored in good faith during 1871. The money, raised by a special tax levied by the State upon its impoverished people, came in slowly.

Judge J. C. Allen did not recall the operation of any special law providing public schools for Gilmer County prior to the inauguration of the statewide system for them. He did state the public school system was beginning in 1871. He taught at Ellijay in 1872. John W. Clayton began teaching in Gilmer with the more complete inauguration of the public school system in 1872. He also taught in the County in 1873.

Beginning with 1873—and backed by a law providing funds of date of Feb. 9 of that year—the County picked up educationally in a very enheartening way, operating schools taught by 70 teachers who instructed 2,500 pupils.

However, the private school was not wholly displaced. For as late as the close of 1879 there were six private schools in operation in the County.

On Nov. 30, 1877, William F. Hill, county school commissioner, received from P. H. Milton, tax collector, on state school fund $1031.25, and from poll tax, additional, $800, a total of $1,831.25. The school funds gradually increased with subsequent years.

The County, now released from direct Federal rule, was fully on its own. Its progress through 1884 is revealed by the following figures:

1878	$1035.90
1879	1041.85
1880	1246.67
1881	1309.40
1882	1634.82
1883	1691.60
1884	1829.35

Reminiscences on the Period

Reminiscences of Albert Gallatin Ward shed some light and human touch to these times. A. G. Ward was known to his neighbors as Bud.

"Once, about 1863, I went with my mother to Talking Rock. I was about four years old. (This must be the time he accompanied Henry Pettit.) As I passed old man Joe Pickett's on Town Creek, he gave me a canteen full of whiskey. We had gone to Talking Rock to get flour.

"Once as a small boy I ran away. Jack Pinson was going south with a yoke of oxen. He let me go with him. But I finally parted company with him—when we were a long way toward Cartersville. As I came back trudging along alone, I saw a man with a big clock on his shoulder. He jumped on a wagon as if he did not want me along. I left him behind and hurried ahead. The mail hack from Cartersville to Ellijay, driven by Charley Irwin, who lived at Turniptown, where Harley Ray lives now, came along. Jeff Davis used to ride this same route from Cartersville to Morganton (this was a relative, son of John E. Davis). I did not like Scared Corn Cemetery, near Hinton, after dark.

"I stuck onto Irwin's hack from Ludville to near Talking Rock Creek, where I jolted loose. After a while, just before night, I overtook, as I once more trudged along by myself, Henry Pettit and Tobe Searcey driving a big wagon drawn by four oxen. I came on with them about three miles. There was a bed factory this side (northwest, on old Ellijay road) of Talking Rock. Tobe Searcey joked me about buying me some beds there and getting married. Then I left him and Pettit, and went rapidly ahead.

"So fleet-footed was I, in fact, that I overtook Charley Irwin and his hack at some Town Creek post office, near Joe Pickett's house, where years before I had received the gift of whiskey. Then I came on all the way to Ellijay. Irwin was driving a curly stallion and a fine blue mule. I left him at Ellijay and found my way on home to where N. R. Hogan now lives (opposite the N. V. Fain place and across the Ellijay river in Cherry Log district).

"Miss Nancy Hallford (later Mrs. John Sluder) was sitting in the corner when I arrived. The first question I asked was 'Where is Wheeler (my dog)?'

Nancy said, 'He's been in the corner ever since you left.'

"About 1865 I attended a private school (probably at White Path, a small school financed and patronized by Dr. R. R. Hunt, John M. Ward and perhaps a few other people close round.) This was first taught by Miss Clara Swaim, who was brought on horseback more than 300 miles from some point in South Carolina. She came through the mountains of northern Georgia, perhaps by

Blairsville. Some other teachers of the time were Chris Banks and Cleary Swain. I learned to read the first week I was in school.

"I also went to school on Rock Creek at a house near Tobe Searcey's in a corner of the field just east of where the railroad is now. I lived on Brier Creek at the time, and was seven or eight years old. (He was born 1859, which means 1866 or 1867 for the year of this school.)

"There were some 50 grown men and overgrown boys in the school. I hid behind these. It did me no good to blab* like the others. I couldn't hear myself for their big bullfroggy voices. Mont Sharp** was teacher. He did not whip, but used moral suasion and prayer. (This must have been a school partly supported by "poor funds.")

"When I was eight or nine, on Friday afternoons, we sometimes worked up a religious revival that might have been mistaken by the hush hush element for a riot. Our old teacher shed a lot of tears. Some of the larger scholars would burst out shouting.

"I was small and did not know how to shout. But I was perfectly willing to run about the neighborhood as personal messenger to invite to such meetings outsiders whom our teacher hoped might benefit from the religious enthusiasm generated in our group. We sang "A Charge to Keep I Have" and prayed over and over.

"We had different kinds of classes, and made some real progress. We studied the blueback speller, learning along with the words and reading how words were divided and the key to pronouncing them. It was later that I studied grammar and geography. After I was about 13 (around 1872, when a public school system was beginning to find its legs), I entered an arithmetic class, sticking to that till just before dinner.

"We learned to write by using a shelf made by boring holes in the schoolhouse walls into which we drove wooden pins for shelf rests. We used foolscap paper and steel pens. Our school seats were halved logs into which we drove wooden pins that slanted outward and served for legs. Such schools lasted only from about July 1 to September 30."

One old instructor, not so pious as Mr. Sharp, serving an eastern district, promised his scholars a mysterious "treat" at the close of his short-termed school. When that day arrived the master had a wooden tub with dippers dangling at its sides and filled with "stew," he called it. The stuff had a base of pure corn whiskey of about 90 proof. Its potency to "stew" is obvious enough.

But back to the reminiscences of the days that came on the heels of the Civil War, "One queer teacher, known simply as Mr. Hawes, came into school at Rock Creek with a wire-haired dog at his heels. To this dog, his only friend, he was very partial. He kept it inside the schoolhouse, which was the simplest of tiny log structures and stood on the brow of the little hill now being overspread by the cemetery overlooking Rock Creek meeting house. The master wore the poorest, slouchiest of clothes and a cap worth about a nickel.

"Upon opening school, Hawes made a devout promise that (as some were soon averring) proved he must have been cracked. He promised, in order to promote speed and practically eliminate tardiness, that he would whip the last one coming in at every recess. One day a passel of boys was playing in some vine-matted bushes just north of Rock Creek.

*Mumbling audibly over lessons and assignments, an old custom probably brought over from the British Isles.

**Mrs. L. F. Haymes, Phoenix, Arizona, a granddaughter of this excellent man, says he was once set apart for the Methodist ministry.

"Mr. Hawes unexpectedly called 'books.' Before Jud Whitaker could possibly tear loose from the tangle, wade Rock Creek, climb the hill, get in at the door, which was well above ground and was approached by a series of rugged wooden stairs, it was too late. As Jud walked in, Hawes began to keep his promise. But the matter wasn't that easily settled.

"Jud was an athlete that could do wonders. He could jump a fence forward and backward. In those days pistols could be obtained almost anywhere and about every man carried one. A boy of our school carried a pistol in his belt, condescending to take it off only occasionally and hanging it on the school wall while he played. (This boy may have been in another school nearby).

"Belated Jud eased up to the schoolhouse door. And when Hawes was not looking, out he jumped the full 12 or 15 feet to the rocky ground, and burned the atmosphere till away over into Boardtown, where he borrowed an old Derringer pistol that shot one time. Having thus armed himself, he is said to have threatened to even things up with what he considered a tyrant. But the rising wrath of the patrons, like a big blow, forestalled further action and sent Mr. Hawes and his wire-haired dog wandering once more. They were never seen again.

"Arthur Pinson was another teacher of mine. He and James H. Sharp both made up a school to be taught in the old Gipson house that stood in the tip end of the field slightly northeast of the Searcey home I have already mentioned. Both men taught the school and divided what money came in.

"In those days a teacher went ahead and taught if there were 200 scholars in his room. There were no assistants. One day I was down by the spring from which we got our drinking water. A girl went to beating me on the left arm with a seasoned stick. I felt obliged to defend myself, but had to take some punishment. By that time the girl had got to the house and told her side of the matter. That ired Mr. Sharp, who thought I should be tanned again. But Arthur Pinson was on my side and was too big for Mr. Sharp to manhandle. So the affair soon blew over."

C. READING

And Other Cultural Phases of Home Life

We may as well suspend, for the present, the growth and progress of Gilmer schools to look at the homes and rather meager (but real) co-operation the homes of the people offered. We shall present the artistic side elsewhere. Just now we'll present something of the type of reading they had. Shakespeare was honored and read.

They had their Bibles, sometimes large and expensive books; their almanacs, Grier's being a favorite but some came from as far away as Boston. Gilmer early had its newspapers: from Dahlonega, Cassville, Calhoun, Atlanta before we established our own newspaper Sept. 1, 1875.

We have evidence established magazines, printed at a distance, like Harper's had a few readers. Even when our mail had to be brought by hacks all the way from Cartersville we had our share of reading supplied by distant printers and publishers. A few books were being sold in stores here while the Indians were still here. Gilmer had established a community library soon after Talloeney Mission began its work in 1819.

But the reading habit became much more widespread after a railroad reached us late in 1884. It was during this period that numerous little inexpensive publications burgeoned in New York and Augusta and Waterville in Maine. The reading was romantic and emotional but intensely puritanic.

Of the New York "mail order monthlies," Robert Bonner's Sons supplied "The Ledger Monthly." It was rather expensive—50 cents a year. We also saw Hearth and Home in homes. It was cheaper. But F. M. Lupton Company were voluminous distributors of paper covered books. At first, the longer novels were only about 5 cents a copy. These extremely low prices were possible because of the low postage rates of those days, cheap paper, modest expenses of every kind. The books seemed to have got the lowest mailing rates because they were issued as magazines, quarterly or otherwise.

F. M. Lupton, stationed at City Hall Place, New York, gave us Dickens, H. Rider Haggard along with Etta W. Pierce and May Agnes Fleming, and other authors. This company launched "Good Literature," a magazine that was offered at 25 cents a year, club rate. It began publication in 1891.

Of the inexpensive little monthlies issued by Vickery & Hill at Augusta, Maine, one that was popular and lived longest was "Good Stories," established about 1884. It held out till about 1930. Then it and "Vickery's Fireside Visitor," "Happy Hours," "The American Woman," and "Hearth and Home" went into receivership.

The same fate came to "Comfort," a magazine published also at Augusta, Maine. But at least files of it remain. No files of the Vickery and Hill publications survive.

What went with "Hearthstone," (New York), "Farm and Fireside" and numerous other magazines of their day we do not know. But we do not see them any more. However, we prize copies of these magazines we have been able to procure.

What caused the extinction of these magazines that used to go out from their offices of publication by the millions? The answer may lie in improved

roads, electric lights, the telephone, other amusements besides reading such as the moving picture. Television probably came too late to figure in their demise.

But one lesson about these magazines and those that survived is the important lesson of adaptation. Perhaps more of that might have kept with us some of those that suspended.

For we had the "Woman's Home Companion," now referred to as the "Companion," the "Saturday Evening Post," now the "Post" and others such as "The Ladies Home Journal" that survived and reached the present. But this is another trying and critical stage in the life of publications, including books.

We have plenty of good books but they get more and more expensive. We also have the problem of trying to exclude from our book shelves a lot of stuff labeled "realism." Realism doesn't have to be filthy. Among the great offices of the modern library and the friendly bookmobile are the screening out of vile and traitorous publications before they corrupt our youth. There are more good clean, wholesome books than most of us will get round to reading.

An Important Step of 1959

June 14. A contract for Bookmobile service, in co-operation with Cherokee and Pickens counties, is signed by the county board of education and the commissioner of roads and revenues acting for the County. A definitely up and forward step.

The Bookmobile is to serve the people of Gilmer with library materials. It will make regular visits to the County and will make regular stops during those visits. For the present, most stops are at the schools, where each school library is supplemented with books from the Bookmobile. All materials from the Bookmobile are checked out to borrowers without cost.

T. C. Hendrix is director of this service in this region. Mrs. Ralph Allison will be driver-clerk of the Bookmobile. Miss Helen Clark, bookmobile librarian, is scheduled to attend the vehicle with Mrs. Allison when it makes its rounds.

The bookmobile appeared, for its first showing, on the public square at Ellijay Saturday, August 8. It came back September 6, and has made regular visits according to schedule since.

GILMER'S BOOKMOBILE AND PERSONNEL

Gilmer is happy to share in the tri-county service of the Sequoyah Regional Library, with headquarters at Canton. On left, Mrs. Elice Hawthorne, Mrs. Nelle Allison, operators of the transportation of books.

D. FURTHER ON THE CULTURAL

With Special Attention to Progress of Schools

As seen hereafter, cultural growth will be viewed in a better light because a local newspaper, launched Sept. 1, 1875, will help. Events will usually be dated, and that will explain better many of the items.

1875

June 3. Tom Craigo is first honor student at East Tennessee Wesleyan University, Athens, Tenn. A native of Gilmer, he later taught at Ellijay.

September 3. Gilmer has 40 schools going.

Cohutta Sunday School has a widely "norated" celebration in Mountaintown district, near the present home of Avery Langley. Dr. E. W. Watkins, Dr. J. M. Watkins and Rev. A. J. Hughes address the meeting.

1876

August 30. E. B. Shope and J. F. Ray, teachers at Nine Mile school, in Mountaintown district, carry paid advertising in the local press regarding their school. Evidently these men extended their term beyond what the State paid. We have been told that they even built small houses about their school. These were intended for students coming from a distance who might wish to do their own housekeeping.

About the same date the old Academy, which seems to have come to be called the Gilmer County High School, in Ellijay, is being taught by T. G. Harris A. B., from Mossy Creek College, Tenn. His school opened July 10, and the first three months were free. So Ellijay was enjoying a three-months school free that year!

On May 14, 1877, the County Board of Education, composed of William Simmons, W. C. Woodward, W. R. Rackley. J. F. Pettit (president). E. W. Watkins (secretary), appoints school trustees for the 10 militia districts then in existence.

Oct. 4. The "best novels of the season" are advanced as "Ariadne," by Ouida; "A Family Feud," Ludwig Harden; "Mignon," Mrs. Forrester; "Love in Idleness," Ellen W. Olney; "Phyllis," the Duchess; "The Marquis of Lossie," George MacDonald; "Her Lovers," Sue Harry Clagett.

1878

The public school term is set at three months.

April 2. The County Board of Education selects school trustees, for each militia district, for a term of three years.

1879

March 7. Some songs finding favor in Gilmer are "Gathering Shells from the Seashore," "Drifting with the Tide," "The Poor Old Tramp," and "Little Wild Flower."

1880

Aug. 17. Gilmer has 46 schools in operation, W. H. Chapman teaching on Flat Top Mountain.

Dec. 17. The educational progress of Gilmer County is somewhat revealed by these comparative figures:

Year	White Schools	Negro Schools	Enrollment	Average Daily Attendance
1875	40	1	1991	1200
1877	35	1	1639	900
1878	45	1	2150	1260
1879	45	1	2473	1563
1880	45	1	2589	1687

1881

Aug. 16. Gilmer reduces the number of its schools from 46 to 44, Flat Top Mountain and Cash's Valley being left without schools because of their failure to apply for teachers.

1882

July 31. W. F. Hill, County School Commissioner, devotes the usual time required—and that's a whole day—to visiting Flat Mountain school, composed of 20 pupils and taught by J. D. Walker.

1883

April 3. Mrs. Celia Sumner donates a school site in Mountaintown.

July 3. The Gilmer Board of Education takes unanimous action favoring pending legislative bills looking to statewide educational progress.

Aug. 4. Gilmer teachers, schools and enrollment follow:

T. Ratcliff	Flat Branch	40
W. T. Sanford	Cross Roads	73
Miss Delia Craigo	Ridgeway	45
W. E. O. Moore	Fairview	26
G. D. Tankersley	New Hope	58
E. B. Shope	Walnut Grove	63
S. J. Cole	Mountaintown Institute	56
T. M. Anderson	Nine Mile	52
B. F. Gates	Loyal Cove	44
J. D. Watkins	Gates Chapel	53
John R. Hill	Mountaintown	58
W. L. Harper	Zion Hill	55
P. P. Carroll	Flat Branch	53
S. L. Guess	Pleasant Grove	42
W. P. Stone	Cash's Valley	29
M. C. Briant	Boardtown Institute	64
Miss A. M. Banks	Near Newhope	8
Miss Mary O. Kirby	Oak Grove	56
Miss Mattie Holt	Turniptown	38
Miss Hattie Smith	Upper Turniptown	49
Miss I. J. Ellington	Cherry Log	40
J. H. Sharp	Rock Creek	52

Miss Mary Griffith	Owltown	27
Miss Lula Holt	Mt. Zion	34
W. L. Pettit	Scrougetown	64
J. S. Hudson	Pleasant Gap	33
M. J. Plemmons	Macedonia	66
W. N. Cochran	Pisgah	76
J. W. Harper	Diamond	36
W. S. Clayton	Bucktown	60
W. F. Slagle	Poplar Springs	74
Miss Corrie Heath	Ebenezer	28
Miss Emma C. Tabor	Oakland	18
P. H. Milton	Pleasant Grove	76
T. W. Craigo	Ellijay Seminary	82
E. W. Pettit	Mt. Vernon	52
M. A. Allen	Talona	57
G. W. Johnson	Providence	46
B. S. Holden	Clear Creek	72
N. B. West	Alto	56
J. W. Lawing	Kennemur	(school closed)
	Pleasant Grove (Col.), Ball Ground	
Miss Laura E. Kirby	Liberty	51
B. L. Hensley	Talona Creek	46
W. S. Foutes	Town Creek	50
J. W. Keeter	Gaddis	48
W. B. Long	Coosawattee	52
Miss Mollie Frady	Flat Ridge	80

The total number of public schools is 47, Gilmer children being also in attendance upon Dawson, Pickens, Murray, and Fannin county schools.

Oct. 17. The Ellijay Dramatic club will give an entertainment at Ellijay Seminary hall in honor of the three churches at this place, Tuesday night October 17. The exercises will be varied by vocal and instrumental music. The club will present the well known drama, "The Reward of Crime," or "The Love of Gold."

1884

April 1. The Gilmer County Board of Education, consisting of J. F. Chastain, John W. Holt, P. G. Hyatt, W. F. Hill, adopt as text books McGuffey's Revised Readers, Harvey's Grammar, the Sanford Arithmetics, Venable's History, Worcester's Dictionary and Eclectic System of Penmanship.

Aug. 21. Ellijay is conducting a public school in the Baptist church.

Oct. 2. The county school fund is increased $137.75 over 1883.

Nov. 27. The county board of education meets quarterly.

1885

July 3. Teachers and their schools follow:

J. W. Garren	Newhope
G. F. Pettit	Pleasant Grove
W. A. Gipson	Flat Branch
L. Langley	Cross Roads
Miss Mary Kirby	Liberty
King D. Quarles	Ridgeway

Miss Mary Tankersley ..... Newhope
J. C. Parton ..... Moreland
E. B. Shope ..... Pleasant Hill
Miss Nora Cole ..... Walnut Grove
Mrs. R. H. Robb ..... Ellijay Seminary
Miss C. A. Handsell ..... Ellijay Academy
John S. Everett ..... Lower Turniptown
Miss Alice Redman ..... Turniptown
A. L. Pinson ..... Upper Turniptown
Rev. J. D. McDaniel ..... Cherry Log
G. W. McDaniel ..... Rock Creek
J. H. Sharp ..... Buckhorn
M. C. Briant ..... Salem
S. R. Kincaid ..... Oak Grove
M. T. Dooley ..... Flat Branch

The average enrollment of these various schools was 41. July 17. An interesting old program offered at the White Path Hotel explains itself. Several of those appearing on it were distinguished in their day.

"Entertainment
Literary and Musical
At White Path Hall
Friday Evening, July 17, 1885

The guests and visitors at Mrs. Robertson's will give a musical and literary entertainment, beginning at 7:30. The object is for mutual enjoyment and recreation, and the following program has been prepared.

1. Violin Solo ..... Mr. (M. J.) Mears
2. Original Essay ..... Miss Mat Crim
3. Comic Quartette ..... 'Punchinelle'
4. Recitation ..... Miss Lorena Robertson
5. Song ..... Miss Ella E. Green
6. Recitation in Costume from 'Betsy Hamilton,' ..... Mrs. (W. F.) Robertson
7. Violin Solo ..... Mr. Mears
8. Character Sketch ..... 'Train to Mauro'
9. Original Poem ..... C. W. Hubner
10. Recitation, 'Grumble Corner' ..... Miss Ida Hubner
11. Recitation ..... Miss Rose Hubner
12. Comic Song, 'The Old Maid's Lament' ..... Mrs. C. W. Hubner
13. "White Path Tableau'

The public is cordially invited.

Miss Mat Crim, native of Louisiana, was apparently 25 or less in 1885, and is described by those who recall her as quite pretty and attractive in personality.

Like the novelist, Will Harben, of Dalton, Miss Crim sensed the peasantish local color of Gilmer folk of her day. And she sketched their rugged strength and background, seeing in their simple lives the capacity for rising above mere simplicity. In fact, she established her fame with a short story, "The Unfortunate Creetur," locale of which is certainly near White Path.

Educated almost entirely at home, she came to Georgia, making her home part of the time apparently with relatives in Atlanta. She also lived a while in Marietta, where she was known to the Northcutts and other people prominent

MISS MAT CRIM

Able writer and exponent of Gilmer character, Miss Crim spent time with our folk and presented them to the reading world of both America and Great Britain. Ed Greer, whose mother was once employed at White Path, recalls this fine young woman. She was associated with Bob Northcutt, about 24, in some of her mountain climbing. Bob wore pants without pockets in them. Miss Crim had a ready pencil, and made many notes as she traveled about. She usually rode round in a buggy but came back to the hotel at night. Ned Stewart, Ed Greer's uncle, operated a livery service, and this was available to Miss Crim.

there. Ed Greer, who once lived in Boardtown, remembered her and a mountain-climbing tour she took with Marietta friends. She wrote for various newspapers and magazines, including Dixie, the Sunny South, Century, Harper's and Independent.

She removed, during her mounting fame, from Georgia to New York, where she remained several years. Later she traveled in Europe. When last heard of, she was living in Germany. "Adventures of a Fair Rebel" and "In Beaver Cove and Elsewhere" are among her books, the latter being published in both England and the United States. This is the volume with stories of Gilmer locale in it.

July 24. The program of July 17 at White Path hotel was received with so much favor another "literary and musical programme" is rendered on the hotel lawn.

1. Organ Solo ..... Ellijay Waltz, C. W. Hubner
2. Mother Goose and Family in Costume ..... Various Children
3. Essay by Miss Mat Crim ..... Read by Miss Lillian C. Otis
4. Duet from "Cinderella" ..... Mrs. Hubner and Miss Crim
5. Recitation ..... "Dolly," Rose Hubner
6. Impersonation ..... Lillian C. Otis
7. Duet ..... Lorena and Mattie Robertson
8. Poem ..... "The Blessed Man," C. W. Hubner
9. Recitation ..... Lorena Robertson
10. Character Sketch ..... Mrs. Hartsfield, Mrs. Hubner and Ida Hubner
11. Song ..... Miss Ella Green
12. Recitation ..... Mattie Robertson
13. Comic Song, "You're not the Man for Me" ..... Mrs. C. W. Hubner
14. "Dame Goodrich" ..... Ida Hubner
15. Duet, "Juanita" ..... Mesdames Robertson, Hartsfield
16. Comic Duet ..... Rose and Ida Hubner
17. Tragedy ..... Mrs. Hubner and Miss Crim
18. Chorus ..... "Sweet Bye and Bye," in which the audience is requested to join.

On Saturday, August 15, 1885, the teachers of Gilmer County met in the courthouse at Ellijay. William F. Hill was county school commissioner, M. T. Dooley was secretary of the meeting. There were about 62 schools then, only some 20 of which were represented in the meeting. Mr. Hill gave out blanks for teachers to use in reporting their work.

He then gave ideas on some new methods of teaching and the merits of certain new school charts. J. H. Sharp spoke on the time of opening and closing schools. On motion of the group, W. S. Coleman was invited to express his views upon the same subject. His address, however, was mainly upon the fitness of the teacher, his mission and responsibility.

J. S. Everett and W. L. Harper then spoke upon inculcating in student groups, customs of politeness toward teacher and strangers. G. W. Gates gave conclusions on the number of lessons that could be recited to advantage each day. Fletcher Pettit followed with remarks along the same line. Others discussed briefly whether to permit older students to choose for themselves between expulsion and corporal punishment.

The following list of teachers is evidently far from complete, being in all likelihood teachers and schools represented at the above meeting. Schools and their enrollment follow the appropriate teacher.

Miss Laura Kirby	New Liberty	58
Miss Nannie Holt	Flat Ridge	67
J. M. Gravitt	Oak Hill	73

W. T. Sanford	Coosawattee	52
J. M. Stephens	Ball Creek	40
W. H. Allen	Gaddis	40
M. A. Allen	Lower Town Creek	31
J. N. Cobb	Upper Town Creek	37
Samuel Jones	Near Talona M. E. Church	47
W. S. McArthur	Providence	58
H. M. Ellington	Clear Creek	82
Walton Davis (Colored)	Negro School	31

"Since last year," to quote from a report of W. F. Hill on the progress of education for 1885, "five new school houses have been erected:

Coosawattee district

Near M. E. Church, Talona

Clear Creek

By Mr. West's

At E. Pettit's

Another in course of construction in Diamond district

Two went to Ball Ground district

Two to Cartecay district."

1887

April 5. According to law already established, school trustees were being appointed by the county board of education by districts, as shown below:

District	Trustees
Tickanetley	Joseph Newberry, James L. Plemmons, Marion Bearden
Cartecay	William A. Allen, William L. Pettit, A. J. Hagin
Ball Ground	Felix G. Smith, J. H. Watkins, A. M. Johnson
Town Creek	John L. Keeter, J. P. Cloniger, William Goble
Leaches	E. T. Foote, Z. T. Langley, John Goble
Ridgeway	J. G. Smith, T. F. Nelson, Rufus Ratcliff
Tails Creek	C. N. Rogers, J. B. Deboarde, G. W. Gates
Mountaintown	William H. Jones, Z. T. Crawford, L. H. Sharp
Boardtown	James S. Smith, A. J. Dodd, James H. Frady
Cherry Log	W. H. Pettit, W. H. Searcey, Jesse Miller
Ellijay	John W. Hipp, L. M. Greer, J. W. Duckett
Coosawattee	L. M. Grise, B. F. Gravitt, M. C. Blankenship
Diamond	Joseph P. Davis, J. Weaver, John Holden
Alto	William C. Anderson, Marion Reece, Jason Larmon

1890

Rural schools climbed to four months this year.

The county board of education continued the custom, in vogue late in 1884, of meeting quarterly. The meetings appear to have been held in January, April, July, October. And schools appear to have been flourishing.

Chopped Oak school, for instance, where only one family lives now, then boasted an enrollment of 117; Salem, an adjoining school district, had 127; Flat Branch, around 100; Mountaintown, third in size of the County's schools, enrolled some two or three hundred. Oakland, meantime, hovered around 200. Ellijay was the largest of the County's schools.

Among the old teachers of the period were Alf Brown, Bill Johnson, Wash McDaniel, Bud Gipson, Jim Kincaid, Jack Dooley, Pink Milton, and another named Shields. Rev. Eldridge B. Shope, father of the well known Dalton editor, Theron S. Shope, was a very active and able figure among these; James B. Dover was another. Judge J. C. Allen and an instructor named Ryden once taught, also.

The active days of these men saw a continuation of the quaint old custom of blabbing, which persisted into the 1890s. But by then, however, it had become a sort of relaxation, and was permitted only occasionally. For as far back as 1883 the custom was losing ground.

One day county school commissioner Hill came to Wash McDaniel's school. Suddenly the visitor burst out barking. The sound startled Mr. McDaniel and sounded so much like a dog the children were instantly alerted and entertained and "conditioned" to desist from their blabbing and listen to a serious address. It has been said that, when blabbing was in flower, one could stand on a hilltop on a still day and catch the din of distant blabbers.

Following is a list of Gilmer teachers, with respective schools and enrollment for the summer of 1890.

Teachers	Schools	Enrollment
John W. Goble	Liberty	41
J. L. Weaver	Flat Ridge	78

(This last school, or another of the same name, is also described a few days later as under Miss Hannah Holt, with an attendance of 53).

Robert L. Allen	Oak Hill	60
Miss Sarah Holden	Berean	57
W. A. Hamrick	Ball Creek	112

(Of this number 80 are listed from Gilmer, 32 from Pickens).

Jesse M. Hamrick	Mt. Pisgah	69
B. L. Hensley	Talona	98
J. O. Mires	School near Talona	49
T. W. Craigo Jr.	Clear Creek	91
N. B. West	Kennemur	50
J. S. Hudson	Oakland	54
W. S. MacArthur	Ebenezer	74
Miss Sophia Holt	Ayres	52
Joseph Plemmons	Salem	50
Miss Maggie Bearden	Tickanetley	40
J. H. M. Weaver	Bucktown	46
F. Holden	Blue Ridge	73
Miss Mary Plemmons	Big Creek	36
George W. Forrester	Gum Spring	46
J. O. Akins	Macedonia	62
Miss Maggie Smith	Plemmons Gap	53
S. F. Pettit	Scrougetown	48
W. J. Johnson	Poplar Springs	56
Mrs. Lou Plemmons	Mountaintown	48
J. H. Souther	Gates Chapel	47
J. W. Painter	Loyal Cove	41
J. B. Dover	Mountaintown Institute	97
Miss Sarah Withrow	Maple Grove	20
George W. Poindexter	Moreland	47

J. R. Hill	Pleasant Gap	47
N. L. Tankersley	Flat Branch	42
J. F. Waters	Cross Roads	38
James R. Briant	Ridgeway	50
W. B. Davis	Hyatt's Store	51
Miss Mary Tankersley	New Hope	59
Miss Fannie Hill	New Liberty	46

Total number of schools in the County, 55. About ten county-line schools have pupils enrolled from this County.

Mr. W. F. Hill, county school commissioner in 1890, reports that many Gilmer children are enrolled in the schools of adjoining counties, also that school funds accruing to the County would be over a thousand dollars more than for the previous year. He estimates the prorata share of each pupil at not less than three dollars for the four months term which is to become the custom. People are urged to help put their schoolhouses in shape so that their children can attend instead of being frozen out with the approach of winter weather.

In 1890, also, the Ellijay Library was organized by the "King's Sons and King's Daughters." Some of the groups and individuals early active and instrumental in this cultural move were the Ellijay Courier, the Evans Land & Lumber Company, Miss H. L. Bisaner (pronounced Bice-ner), T. H. Tabor, Dr. E. W. Watkins, S. A. Seaman, Henry Holley, J. C. Allen, W. W. Hyatt, Estella Watkins, Florence Hyatt, Rosie Teem; B. G. Chase of Geneva, New York, made an initial contribution of $25.

In two months the organization reported a membership of 102; and, before the close of the year, 300—"standard books, not dime novels." Plans were on foot to purchase a piano. Ice cream and strawberry festivals, lawn parties and picnics were projected for its social diversion and financial aid.

This year Miss Laura Kirby taught in the old Gilmer Academy.

1891

Jan. 6. The county board of education, composed of John F. Pettit, Alfred Ingle, M. S. Swann, orders teachers "not to use profane or obscene language, carry concealed weapons, play cards or make or sell intoxicating liquors."

May 28. Fifty-four schools have operated this year for a term of four months. Only one of these was colored. Five months is scheduled for the term next year.

Subjects taught: orthography, reading, writing, English grammar, geography, arithmetic.

The public school fund for the year has increased 44 per cent, so that compensation for teachers for the projected five-months term, by the month, will be better than during the former term of four months. The want of some new or repaired school houses, however, threatens to shorten the terms of a few schools.

Teachers, Summer of 1891

Miss Maggie Pettit, John W. Hopper, J. H. M. Weaver, Joseph Anderson, Joseph L. West, W. J. West, P. B. West, W. S. McArthur, J. S. Hudson, and other teachers, with their schools and enrollment, also are:

Miss Sallie Cantrell	Bennett's	32
J. D. McDaniel	Oak Grove	39

Ed Hill	Cherry Log	61
C. L. Godfrey	Boardtown	35
M. C. Briant	Buckhorn	60
Miss Ophelia Randell	New Salem	45
W. A. Craigo	Chopped Oak	64
Miss Hattie Harper	Zion Hill	42
B. F. Weeks	Cashes Valley	49
W. B. Smith	Pleasant Grove	49
J. E. Tallant	Ellijay Seminary	115
Mrs. Sallie Kincaid	East Ellijay	69
N. W. Pettit	Owltown	65
Miss Bettie Randell	Seven Miles	26
W. A. Simmons	Scrougetown	42
Miss Georgia Pettit	Pleasant Gap	37
J. O. Akin	Macedonia	53
A. L. Kimsey	Flat Ridge	40
J. L. Ellis	Big Creek	40
W. R. Kimmons	Gum Spring	40
Miss Laura Holden	Tickanetley	25
S. G. Clayton	Poplar Spring	54

Oct. 15. Other teachers, in addition to those listed for the summer, are listed as: N. B. West, J. B. Dover, J. W. Painter, Miss Mary Plemmons, J. H. Souther, Mrs. Sallie Dart, Samuel Jones, W. L. E. Hill, John F. Sharp, James L. Weaver, L. M. Williams, J. W. Young, J. M. Richards, N. L. Tankersley, Miss Mary Tankersley, John R. Hill, B. R. James, J. F. Waters, W. E. Daves, John W. Hopper, G. W. McDaniel.

Jesse M. Hamrick, John P. Keeter, J. W. Wilson and W. A. Hamrick have addresses outside the County.

The board of education is composed of Z. T. Crawford, president; John F. Pettit, M. S. Swann, L. M. Simmons, Alfred Ingle; W. F. Hill is county school commissioner.

Oct. 22. The Ellijay Library Association announces, "We now have an elegant hall, well furnished, and a number of good books. "Twenty-five cents is entrance fee for membership, with dues of ten cents a month afterward, ladies probably excused from paying part of the fees. Miss Hattie Bisaner is very active for the organization.

Dec. 20. At a teacher examination, 74 take the test, but only one, a college graduate, Miss Emma C. Tabor, makes first grade; seven make second-grade licenses; fourteen failed. Many others, as after a severe battle, seem to have been unaccounted for.

There are 55 schools in operation in the County; male teachers, 42; female, 13; male pupils in the County, 1565; female, 1447; total, 3012; average attendance, 1447; cost of tuition for each of the five months of the public school term, 84 cents to each pupil; amount paid teachers, $6107.64.

1892

May 19. James Hagin of Cartecay, W. H. Pettit of Cherry Log, W. H. James of Conesauga are elected to serve as a board of education.

May 26. The Ellijay Library is holding meetings every Thursday night. H. M. Ellington is president; E. W. Coleman, secretary; Lester Smith, treasurer; Miss Estelle Watkins, librarian.

July 2. Ellijay holds an educational meeting, in which Miss Ophelia Randall, Miss Belle Ellington, J. B. Dover, James A. Kimmons, M. C. Briant, J. E. Tallant take prominent parts.

Two days later Miss Emma Watts opens school in the old but renovated Gilmer academy building.

1893

March 4. School children of the whole county are: white 3050; Negro, 19. Total number of persons in the County between 10 and 18 not able to read or write, 534. Only six were never enrolled in a public or private school.

East Ellijay is building a house for the operation of a public school.

June 29. The Ellijay Library gives up its hall and sells its furniture. E. W. Coleman, apparently unwilling to abandon so worthy a project, becomes librarian.

The number of schools in the County this summer is 62, with three more projected for 1894—one in Coosawattee district (Shady Grove), another in Ball Ground and a third "north of the Blue Ridge."

1894. The year opens with J. L. Holden, James Hagin, Cartecay; J. M. C. Stokes, Talona; W. H. James, Connesauga, members of the board of education, and William F. Hill county school commissioner.

1895, June 27. A teacher examination is held by Commissioner W. F. Hill, assisted by George F. Pettit, R. Pierce and M. C. Briant. Nobody gets a first grade license.

July 8. The Gilmer Teachers Institute, under the direction of D. L. Ernest, meets at Ellijay. Sixty-two teachers are present. State Superintendent Glenn visits the institute and addresses it.

July 15. H. V. Briant opens a public school in Mountaintown district. The school has an enrollment of 50, expected to climb to around 70 as the summer advances. The report was early circulated "Mr. Briant will be without an assistant, and his pay will be $20 a month." But James L. Parks, who attended this school, thinks that Robert Hill assisted Mr. Briant by taking part of the school into the nearby Mountaintown Baptist church. Mr. Briant chewed "store boughten tobacco," while Mr. Hill, son of William F. Hill, made out on "stingy green," or home twist.

The writer recalls some of the later history of Mr. Briant, a son of M. C. Briant, a leading teacher of Gilmer County, who began his services to the county more than 100 years ago. A few years after this he married Miss Sophia Holt. He was subsequently merchant and postmaster at old Santa Luca in Boardtown district. He then took a civil service examination and went to work for the government.

He died, we believe, before reaching the age of retirement. His civil service connection was all spent in Atlanta.

Sept. 12. The County enrolls near 2900 in 60 public schools, a single one of which is negro.

The closing of Will Cloniger's school, in December, is quoted from the Ellijay Courier.

"Mr. Cloniger gave the school a nice treat, also presents to all who never missed a day during the term of school. The exercises consisted of speeches and recitations in the afternoon, and dialogs and comic sketches in the evening.

Speeches and Speakers:

Little Man	Roscoe Duckett
Uncle Charles	Betsy Charles
I Want to Be a Big Man	Grover Kelley
I Want to Be an Angel	Rosie Southerlin
Perseverance	Walter Wilson
The Little Bird's Song	Mattie Duckett
The Spring	Charlie Wilson
My Mother's Bible	Lonie Duckett
We are Seven	Walter Wilson
In Memory of the Dead	Isabella Wehunt
Harry and the Guide Post	Eddie Wilson
The Ocean of Eternity	Sarah Cloniger
The Rainbow	Lillie Kelley
The Dying Soldier	Florence Wilson
What is Death?	Lillie Kelley
Bones at a Picnic	Eddie and Charlie Wilson
Our Sunday Afternoon	Sarah Cloniger
Two Left	Eddie and Charlie Wilson
The Wonderful Eggs	John W. Mauldin and Floyd Wilson
The Last Rose of Summer	Lillie Kelley
Come and Hug Me	Eddie and Charlie Wilson
Uncle Pete	J. N. Duckett and Floyd Wilson
A Man of Nerve	Florence Wilson, Floyd Wilson, Charlotte Young, J. N. Duckett
Bones at a Soiree	John W. Maulden, Floyd Wilson
Opossum Runs a Debating Society	J. N. Duckett, chairman;

Speakers, John W. Maulden, Floyd Wilson, Joseph M. Allen, Wash Southerlin

1896

Feb. 2. It was announced William F. Hill was retiring, or planned to retire, as county school commissioner.

Friday, May 29. William F. Hill, soon to retire as county school commissioner (a telling public servant who honored his position much more than the place did him), makes a farewell address. He recounts that he began teaching in 1851 at the age of 17, this being 20 years before the public school system began.

And soon after the public schools started he was selected to serve on the county board of education. In 1877 he became county school commissioner. L. M. (Mel) Simmons was elected Feb. 20, 1896, to replace him. Mr. Simmons did not take active charge of the office until June 4 of that year. Mr. Hill, who lived where Burley Withrow now resides on Chatsworth road, died March 14, 1903.

GILMER TEACHER GROUP IN FRONT OF THE OLD SEMINARY

ELLIJAY, JULY, 1895

M. T. Dooley, a Gilmer teacher when this picture was made, identified the following persons as being in the picture: M. C. Briant, on extreme left to one looking at the photograph; others, Tamar Plemmons, Sophia Holt, Missouri Pickett, Sallie Hill, Bill McArthur, Jim Kimmons, Victor Briant, Fletcher Pettit, Robert James, Mary Tankersley, Maggie Pettit, Warner Smith, Elias Chastain, M. T. Dooley, Jim Dover, Andy Holloway, Milt Barnes, Joe Allen, Noah Parks, Oscar Davis, Roland Kimmons, Meredy Weaver, Bunyan Johnson, Wylie Deborde, Maggie Smith. The boy on the rock wall was named Pierce.

1897

1897. The loss of the Seminary at Ellijay March 8 suddenly crowds and confuses schooling there.

July 5. The following Gilmer teachers attend an institute for their training at Ellijay.

E. O. Akins, J. O. Akins, J. H. Allen, J. B. Dover, J. B. Davis, W. E. Daves, J. T. DeWeese, B. R. James, M. C. Briant, G. T. Briant, J. M. Barnes, E. J. Chastain, T. A. Fore, J. F. Fouts, J. K. Greer, W. A. Holloway, J. L. Harper.

W. B. James, J. W. James, T. W. Craigo, W. S. McArthur, J. H. Penland, W. T. Pickett, N. F. Parks, N. W. Pettit, S. F. Pettit, R. L. Russell, C. C. Russell, W. V. Russell, B. N. Summerour, N. L. Tankersley, C. A. Woodward, J. H. M. Weaver, George W. Gates, J. G. Cole, W. P. Stansbury, George Bearden, H. V. Briant, J. R. Woodward, Herschel Allen, J. W. DeBoard, J. R. Holloway, S. J. Sorrels, J. W. C. West, J. H. Wells, and one Negro, H. W. Colwell.

Women attending were: Misses Martha Daves, Sallie DeBoard, Lillie Crawford, Laura Holden, Mary Kirby, Maggie Pettit, Lou Stansbury, Izora Smith, Maggie Smith, Maggie Sharp, Nettie Smith, Sarah V. Johnson, Emma Tabor, Mary Tankersley, Ella Warlick, Emma Young, Sallie Johnson, Sallie Hill, I. J. Ellington, Tamer Plemmons, Missouri Pickett, and Mrs. Lillian West.

July 15. That ancient structure, the Gilmer Academy, is about to reap a second glory in its age. It is undergoing repairs and other renovation for the opening of a public school the coming Monday. M. C. Briant and Miss Sarah Hill are teachers elect. In those days it seems that Ellijay followed the custom of county schools of opening the middle of July.

1898

Jan. 13. Public schools are scheduled to run six and a half months this year.

Ellijay opens schools at the Creamery building, the old Academy and East Ellijay.

Feb. 3. T. H. Tabor sounds a stirring appeal to Ellijay voters, a year after the loss of their seminary, to come forward and vote Feb. 19, 1898, for bonds to build a public school. The citizens listed below have already pledged their support for the bonds.

J. C. Allen, W. C. Allen, W. C. Bishop, M. J. Foster, J. M. Greer, W. H. Gudger, John E. Barnes, J. B. Bearden, J. M. Bearden, D. B. Baity, J. W. Baily, J. E. Barclay, J. E. Bowling, J. P. Cobb, Jr., R. H. Clifford, J. Gordon Cole, S. A. Cowart, W. E. Curtis, S. K. Dodson, M. M. Davis, D. J. Davenport, William DeJournette, J. C. Evans, J. S. Everett, W. M. Elliott, J. H. Elliott, William M. Lance, John B. Long, William F. McHan, R. H. Milton, M. H. Nelson, John E. Newberry, John P. Perry, W. F. Pitts.

B. C. Greer, J. F. Greer, Dow Grace, C. W. Hughes, J. H. Hutchison, R. S. Hutchison, A. J. Hutchison, J. W. Hipp, J. O. Hipp, J. Hunnicutt, Seaborn Hill, D. M. Hyatt, Juan Hipp, F. Holden, A. Ingle, W. L. Isenhower, J. H. Joyce, C. B. Kelley, W. P. Key, W. A. Kell, Joseph Sellers, J. H. Ray, T. N. Stansberry, J. R. Smith, R. E. Smith, T. H. Tabor, W. M. Teem, M. I. Teem, R. A. Poindexter, S. J. Peeples, S. Phelps, W. V. Russell, Silas Rose, Lester Smith, M. V. Teem, E. W. Watkins, E. W. Watkins, Jr., J. H. Waters, J. C. Welch, W. H. Warlick.

Feb. 19. Ellijay votes $5,000 issue of bonds to build a new school.

June 2. A school census, county-wide, reveals 3,217 pupils (only 17 of whom are negro) in 49 schools.

July 14. The following texts are adopted by the county board of education for the next five years: Sanford's Arithmetic, Harvey's English Grammar, Baldwin's Readers, Field's U. S. History, Harvey's Speller, Webster's Dictionary. Hitherto a student bought and used almost any text he chose for any and all grades. The famous old friends of long standing, Webster's Blueback Speller and the series of McGuffey Readers are bowed out. (Memorable exit!).

The year 1898 was below 1897 in average school attendance. But two new school houses were erected in 1898—one at Scrougetown and another in Cashes Valley.

1899

Sept. 21. A. H. Colquitt speaks at Ellijay in the interest of a "traveling library." It took us 60 years to realize his dream!

Oct. 12. Members of the "old Ellijay Library Association" agree to donate the residue of their property to a newly organized society seeking to promote the establishment and maintenance of a public library.

Oct. 16. School opens at Ellijay in a new, publicly built and operated plant, local successor to the Ellijay Seminary.

Oct. 19. The younger generation of Ellijay organizes the Ellijay Library Association, Mrs. W. H. Shippen becoming president and R. E. Smith assistant secretary; other officers are John Foster, Miss Bessie Freeman, W. H. Allen, Mrs. F. E. Shippen, J. K. Greer.

Nov. 9. Ellijay organizes a public library with the condition made to contributors to the library that, in case the organization disbands, its property reverts to the Ellijay public school.

1900

Jan. 4. T. Y. Penland, Jay Goble, Henry Pettit, J. S. Hudson, on the county board of education.

Feb. 10. L. M. Simmons, having declined to enter any campaign for re-election to the office of county school commissioner, the county board of education elects N. L. Tankersley to succeed him.

March 15. The Ellijay Library Association has a well stocked reading room.

Oct. 4. Ellijay Institute petitions to be incorporated.

1901

The term of the rural public schools has tumbled from the six and a half months of 1898 to five months. Teacher salaries range from $27 a month down.

May 9. The enrollment of the Ellijay Institute approaches 300.

July 24. The County reports 3200 school children.

1903

Rural Teachers, Summer of 1903

School	Teacher
Ayers	J. F. Chastain
Alpine	J. R. Holloway
Bucktown	Miss Mollie Mulkey
Big Creek	Miss Janie Anderson
Blue Ridge	Miss Delia Johnson
Berean	Mrs. Sallie Gentry
Buckhorn	M. C. Briant
Chopped Oak	Edward Pinson
Covington	Miss Beulah Cole
Clear Creek	Lee Holden
Cherry Log	Miss Callie Johnson
Cashes Valley	Miss Mabel Noel
Dover's	J. H. Penland, Miss Lemma Warlick
Ebenezer	Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Allen
Flat Ridge	J. O. Bradley
Flat Branch	Herschel Harper
Gum Spring	Miss Mary Pettit
Gates Chapel	J. L. Parks
Gaddis	J. M. Barnes and Robert Shephard
Harper's	Miss Lizzie Briant
James	Alfred DeBord
Loyal Cove	John Wimpey
Mount Vernon	C. R. Allen
Mountaintown	M. E. Wells, Miss Ella Warlick
Macedonia	Miss Mary Plemmons
Newhope	Miss Alice Withrow
New Salem	N. F. Parks
Oak Hill (Ellijay District	Lester Holden
Oak Hill (Leaches District)	W. H. Barnes
Oakland	Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Wilson, Miss Lillie Smith
Pleasant Grove	Miss Mollie Searcey
Pleasant Valley	W. S. McArthur
Pleasant Gap (Tickanetley District)	J. O. Akins
Pleasant Gap (Tails Creek District)	Samuel Penland
Pleasant Hill	W. B. James, J. B. Dover
Providence	W. A. Holloway
Poplar Springs	Miss Nettie Smith
Pisgah	Miss Izora Smith
Rock Creek	Miss Pearl Johnson
Ridgeway	J. D. Poindexter, Miss Ollie Everett
Salem	Miss Rebecca Pettit
Seven Mile	Miss Leila Simmons
Scrougetown	William Thompson
Tails Creek	J. H. Wells, Miss Mary Tankersley
Talona (Town Creek District)	Miss Missouri Pickett
Talona (Ball Ground District)	Miss Florence Simmons
Turniptown	J. T. Deweese
Warlick	Miss Hattie Wells
White Path	Miss Mollie Hopper
Zion Hill	J. J. Withrow, Miss Maggie Sharp
Of the one negro school, Sixty-One	Willie Simms

Dec. 19. M. E. Wells announces a box supper at Mountaintown school to enlarge a library already begun. This was one of the earliest rural libraries, probably next after Oakland.

The school population of the County is reported to be 3250.

1904

June 9. Trustees of the Ellijay Institute elect Paul Kimzey to teach in their institution. If this is the Paul Kimzey the writer knew at Morganton, he, a native of Hiawassee, Ga., was one of the keenest students of English that ever taught in this section of Georgia. His last work was done in the Philppine Islands. And, like C. R. Allen, Mr. Kimzey died early.

Cct. 13. A. H. Redding is librarian at Ellijay.

1905

Jan. 30. Old Gilmer academy collapses. Erected in, or soon after, 1834, when Ellijay, as a white man's town, was an infant and the land was still full of Indians, it became the community's most historic building.

It served several joint purposes—an educational center, community place of worship, lodge hall upstairs, and as (during later years) a shelter for the poor and homeless, who sometimes lived in it rent free, amid the ever expanding plot of graves around.

Hiram P. Bell, J. C. Allen, M. C. Briant and many others taught in it. For the last 25 years of its existence little use was made of it, so that no one was in it or about it when it fell. But people for quite a distance heard the roar of its downfall.

May 25. An increase of 50% in teacher salaries has occurred within the last five years; the County has 52 schools, one of which is negro. The enrollment in these for 1904 was 3,130; the county board of education announces its ownership of 28 school houses.

1906

March 1. J. W. Cloniger and Rev. J. P. Chastain donate land for the erection of a new school house at the site of the old Griffith school in Owltown community.

May 31. A movement, begun with 1905, to house schools in their own buildings results in some 16 new structures and repairs on several old houses. William Ellington, foreman of the grand jury, inquires searchingly into the frequent suspension of schools and condemnation of school houses and commends erection of school houses as needed, and concentration of schools. Slight increases in salaries for the better type of teachers are inaugurated.

Oct. 4. H. M. Ellington becomes president of the Gilmer county board of education, which plans to start in November meeting the first Tuesday in each month. The board of education continues to insist that schools get out of meeting houses or any other type of structure not owned by the county board of education and their successors in office.

1908

June 4 or 5. W. H. Allen, by action of the county board of education, succeeds N. L. Tankersley as county school commissioner.

Sept. 26. Gilmer having been laid out in sub-school districts, the board of education, in compliance with the McMichael law, orders the election of school trustees throughout the County.

Dec. 22. An entertainment of artistic merit is given at the Ellijay high school, a main feature being entitled "A Case of Suspension." Music for the occasion is offered by Mrs. Charme Brown Shippen and others.

W. H. Allen, who this year succeeds to the office of county school superintendent, brings to the office a keen business acumen, scholarship, and a fine spirit of tact and diplomacy in addition to personal honor.

A relative of Roscoe Allen, his attitude toward libraries in the various schools—wherever located—was sympathetic and generous. Learning that Cherry Log school had struggled along to establish a library for itself, he promptly doubled its collection of books.

The public school term of four and a half months is below what it was a dozen years before.

1909

Jan. 14. County School Commissioner W. H. Allen conscientiously works out a schedule of apportioning to various schools the exact amount of funds due them—the only absolutely fair way to handle this matter. Some of the more influential schools and districts had, apparently, come to be permitted to operate their schools and systems on appropriations exceeding their pro rata share. This practice Mr. Allen, it seems, sought to replace with an ethical one.

Dec. 28. Gilmer's school population is 2702. From 1903, for instance, a noticeable loss in this respect is registered. W. H. Allen has aroused interest in his board of education in participating in the establishment of school libraries. It was 20 years before any more notable advances of the kind were made.

1910

April 25. J. W. Blackwell, W. H. Allen co-operating, opens a special normal course of two months especially designed for Gilmer teachers.

1911

May 24. W. H. Allen, carefully summarizing educational conditions, reports seven school libraries and school enrollment as 2591; average attendance, 1293.

Dec. 25. A summary on schools: 47 white schools, enrollment, 2644; attendance, 1335; a slight increase in the pay of teachers. One negro school.

1912

Dec. 12. During 1912 Gilmer operated 47 white schools for a term of 4½ months. The enrollment, 2642; attendance, 1367. The single negro school enrolled 12 and averaged an attendance of 10.

The county board of education now owns 42 school buildings, a number of which have this year been better equipped.

1913

May 28. The county board of education is preparing to erect five new school houses. It also raises the salaries of teachers.

Dec. 10. School population, 3075; illiteracy is reported as 2.1 percent. The County reports 46 schools with an enrollment of 2612 and an attendance of 1404 in operation. The one negro school enrolls 16 and has an attendance of 11.

The board of education owns 43 school buildings. Three new school buildings have been erected this year. Three other houses are in course of construction. An increase of 367 in the school population is noted.

1914

Jan. 1. Teacher salaries are better. But rural school terms are still but four and a fourth months.

April 25. Nine Mile school and lodge hall burns, a total loss.

May 8. Ellijay is including expression in its school work.

July 13. The teachers institute remains but a week in length.

Aug. 1. Gilmer launches a campaign for a special county-wide tax for supplementing its educational income.

Oct. 21. Of the 48 schools in operation in Gilmer, Big Creek, in a mountainous area and farthest from Ellijay, scores highest in points of excellence. It enrolls its total school population of 21. The average daily attendance is above 20. Except in cases of illness, children maintain attendance records practically perfect. Half the boys are in the Corn Club. More than one-fourth of the students plan to attend schools of more advanced grade and longer terms.

Three new school houses have been built and one house already built is procured for a school house. Four schools have added desks. Corn Club work, which began in 1912 with 56 members, has increased to 155.

1915

This year sees no improvement in the length of the school term, which remains at four months and a week.

March 11. The Nine Mile community of Mountaintown nears the completion of a new school house, replacing the building burned April 25, 1914.

July 12. Miss Celeste Parrish leads Gilmer teachers during a week's institute.

Aug. 17-19. Ellijay-Booster-Club-sponsored chautauqua, Ellijay, entertains in a big tent spread right in the middle of town.

Sept. 13. Music and domestic science are added to Ellijay's public school system.

Nov. 12. The death of Miss Emma Tabor is announced. The health of her parents having grown precarious, she gave up teaching and devoted her life to them. Since the death of her father (June 14, 1905), she has lived with her aging mother.

She got results in the school room. Sincere in purpose, worthy in aims, she grew and multiplied in the expanded lives of her charges.

Funds accruing to Gilmer schools this year (Dec. 30) are $9,747.75, an increase of $1,640.19.

1916

Jan. 1. The term of public schools, in rural areas, is reduced to four months.

Jan. 21. Ellijay Institute starts the new year by improving its buildings and sanitary equipment and expanding its enrollment. The County at large enrolls 36 with it.

Feb. 16. Sharp school offers a library benefit program.

Feb. 18. A movement to wipe out illiteracy in Gilmer is launched.

July 3-14. A four-county teachers institute at Ellijay enrolls 240 teachers; and these, for the first time, separate into study classes. The "expert" becomes merely an assistant and responsibility for specific tasks rests upon the teacher student. A sound change conforming to progress.

Aug. 7. Gilmer, in common with other Georgia counties, is anticipating compulsory school attendance.

Dec. 22. This year Gilmer is supplying 40 of its extra teachers to other sections to teach.

Enrolled in the Boy's Corn club are 57 boys. They are planting Large White and Hasting's Prolific corn, averaging 56-bushel yields to the acre.

1917

Jan. 1. Georgia's compulsory school law, beginning today, applicable to children 8-14, is laid on leniently in the County.

May 25. The illiteracy of Gilmer people is calculated, for those of school age or over, at 16.1. But the percentage of illiterates of school age only is low, said to be fifth in the State. The order of rating, in this respect, is, by counties: Dade, 0.6; Upson, 1.0; Catoosa, 1.1; Irwin, 1.8; Gilmer, 2.1. Three of these high ranking counties are in our section of Georgia, one borders middle Georgia, and the other is in south Georgia.

A telling reduction in illiteracy in Gilmer occurred between 1908 and 1913. In 1908 the County had a total school age illiteracy of 12.4, while in 1913 it had but 2.1. While white illiteracy was being thus reduced, Negro illiteracy was reduced from 25.0 to 4.1. There remained quite a task, however, in adult education.

June 22. A speech, "The American Flag," delivered at North Georgia college (where it won for its author, Glenn Ray, first place in an oratorical contest), is published locally.

July 9-21. Ellijay and Gilmer County are host to another combined teacher institute under direction of M. L. Duggan and F. E. Land, Pickens, Fannin and Cherokee counties participating with Gilmer.

During 1917 Gilmer operates 52 white schools with an enrollment of 2878 and an average attendance of 1769. This represents an increase over any preceding year. The one negro school enrolls 20 and has an attendance of 14.

There were 22 male, and 41 female, teachers. The war, drawing a number of men from the ranks of the teachers, accentuates the change from a male to a female majority in the work of teaching. Others have gone where a local tax affords the school systems income for better teacher salaries, and varied better compensating fields of employment have also made their inroads.

1918

Some advances in teacher salaries are made. Rural school terms remain, however, at 4½ months, as set at the opening of the year.

July 1. Ellijay Summer school for teachers meets, continuing through July 12. Three counties participate.

During 1918, 51 white and one negro school are operated; enrollment of white children, 2833; average attendance, 1693. The colored school enrolled 20 and averaged 15.

1919

Feb. A special school tax is carried in an election in Ellijay.

April 19. On the very day Paul Revere rode in 1775, Ellijay votes to levy special taxes for educational purposes.

July 18. The Ellijay Summer School for Teachers, July 7-18, participated in by Gilmer, Pickens and Fannin counties and conducted by supervisors M. L. Duggan, Fort E. Land and I. S. Smith, closes successfully.

Sept. 5. New educational laws, affecting Gilmer along with the rest of the State propose: To codify school laws, to require counties to levy a tax for school purposes; to provide for the consolidation of county schools and for high schools. The county tax-levy plan is known as the Local School Tax Bill, and provides that each county shall levy a tax of one to five mills for schools, and that this be in addition to their regular income.

This year adds two weeks to the public school term.

1920

The Georgia compulsory school law, the application of which has seemingly been deferred to date, appears to increase school attendance. It applies to children 8 to 14, inclusive, who must attend school six months a year. Under the new law, John P. Cobb of Ellijay is appointed attendance officer. This is the situation Jan. 1.

July 5. A two-weeks summer school for teachers opens at Ellijay.

Sept. 6. Ellijay Institute opens with 135 pupils. Plans are developing for domestic science and state aid. The school has a music department, carries its curriculum through 11 grades.

Oct. 1. The serious teacher shortage is felt in Gilmer, and persons with little training are pressed into service.

1921

J. S. Hudson is succeeded by Frank E. Pettit as superintendent of schools.

Jan. 21. Ellijay Institute has enrolled 260.

July 4. The counties of Gilmer, Pickens and Cherokee meet for another two-weeks session of teacher training. By the following Tuesday, more than 225 had enrolled.

Aug. 5. For the encouragement and recognition of talent in art in Gilmer County schools, George G. Ward, although living in Atlanta, offers prizes for the best drawings from them in a contest open to all.

Nov. 7. Ellijay votes $15,000 in school-improvement bonds.

During 1921, Gilmer operates 54 schools, enrolling 2100 pupils.

1922

The school term for the year is set at seven months. Gilmer projects expenditures, for 1922, for educational purposes, of $34,000. This sounds simply tremendous in comparison with 40 years earlier. Beginning this year, Georgia is supposed to give one-half its revenue to education, thus increasing educational opportunity with us along with the rest of Georgia.

Feb. 10. School news is prominent in the local press.

June 29. The foundations of the new Ellijay auditorium, a part of the public school plant, are laid.

July 14. The Ellijay Summer school for Teachers enrolls 94 from Gilmer alone, and several times that number from other counties. But, delayed in getting an auditorium ready for the school, Ellijay procures a tent for its use.

Aug. 11. The city council of Ellijay lays off and purchases for school use five additional acres of land adjoining its present school plant.

Aug. 25. The Author of this History, for the recognition and discovery of ability in art, again conducts a county-wide contest in drawing, first prize going to Mamie Rogers of Tails Creek district.

1923

The Ellijay Regional Summer school maintains its popularity. That scheduled for 1923 is to assemble from four counties. Bonds for an auditorium to house the school at Ellijay have been issued and work begun.

A serviceable new school house is completed at Scrougetown.

Good news for the cause of education arrives at the close of August. School terms, cut to five and one half months are to be again extended to seven months. Gilmer is slated to receive three to seven thousand dollars, derived from a three-cent gasoline tax, additional for its schools.

Ellijay school, under R. H. Panter, passes the 300 mark in attendance and issues a catalog. Mr. Panter remained head of the school until 1929.

1924

Ellijay Summer school for Teachers is extended to four weeks.

The early part of the year saw the consolidation of Ayers and Ebenezer schools.

Harley Harper sings in Ellijay.

Aug. 23. Mr. Harper, now a prominent citizen of Rome, returns to Ellijay, remaining and singing every day for a week.

July 25. Ellijay's summer school has enrolled 240.

The autumn of this year preparation progresses to establish rural high schools.

1925

Alto school house is erected this year.

March 6. A movement to place more libraries in rural schools is announced. One of the first to donate books is Mrs. B. S. Holden.

Nov. 27. Boardtown consolidates several schools and begins constructing a house for them, the structure being located across the road westward from New Salem meeting house, which once housed the public school for a long period of years.

1926

The people of Boardtown buy four acres of land about and under their schoolhouse for the sum of $53. They then donate the land to the Gilmer County Board of Education as a step toward standardizing their school. Donations ranged from one cent to $8.00. A. J. Reece gave up his claims upon the land under the schoolhouse. A. M. Jones and Albert G. Ward circulated subscription lists.

Subscribers, Celia Fain, Dewey Fain, Mamie Fain, Oscoe Fain, W. R. Fain, D. Garren, Cleve Harper, Floyd Harper, W. P. Harper, Jr., Ada Harris, Ina Harris, A. P. Johnson, Audrey Johnson, Charles Johnson, Mrs. Dovey Johnson, A. M. Jones, Cecil Jones, Floyd Jones, H. J. Jones, Mort Jones, J. A. Key, Ed McFarland, George Miller, Hoke S. Miller, W. J. Miller, Ed Parks, G. C. Parks, Gussie Parks, J. L. Parks, Roy Parks, Flora Plemmons, J. C. Plemmons, Lillie Plemmons, Mary Lee Plemmons, W. L. Plemmons, A. J. Reece, Frank Reece, Ernest Sluder, Albert G. Ward, Alton Ward, George G. Ward, Posey Watkins, W. G. Wingate.

The County receives news of an added allotment of $20,000 accruing from the gasoline equalization fund for public schools. The term of rural schools is raised to seven months.

1928

Jan. 2. The new consolidated school in Mountaintown district opens, as Henry Grady Junior High school, in weather snowy and six degrees below zero.

May 4. Gilmer County (or Ellijay) High School attains admission to group 1, top rank of Georgia high schools.

1929

Many individual schools send in their own and community news. This practice continues through 1932. Pleasant Grove community donates land toward a new school.

May 3. Miss Winifred Miller, in a ninth congressional district meet, wins first place in home economics, and Branson Pinson in a phase of athletics.

Sept. 26. Hoke Miller, after the highest honors in Gilmer High school, Berea College, the University of Georgia, enters Columbia College, New York, to major in chemistry.

1930

Jan. 31. The construction of a school house is begun at Turniptown, where the people have long been hampered educationally by destruction of their school building. Jan. 16, 1931, the house is completed.

1931

Jan. 16. Boardtown and Henry Grady High schools add to their libraries.

May 1. The County's public schools score a gain of 21 per cent in attendance

Rural school libraries are expanded at Ralston, Oakland, Henry Grady, Pleasant Valley, Salem, and Boardtown. Further advances are attained in 1932 at Ralston and Gilmer County High.

Oct. 30. George G. Ward, Howard Perry and J. C. Allen assist E. A. Stanaland in preparing the first large-scale map of Gilmer County. The map shows land lots, districts, sections of the original survey of 1832. Bill Westmoreland, more recently, has made a careful check and corrected some errors Mr. Stanaland made in his original work.

June 3. Records reveal that the average attendance upon Gilmer schools is 100 above 1931.

Aug. 5. George G. Ward, superintendent of schools, announces a plan for the further establishment and development of rural school libraries. To each and every school, anywhere in Gilmer County, that will provide itself with door locks and bookcases, the board of education will furnish window locks, a filing cabinet and a start of books. By this co-operative plan, libraries were established in several schools where they had never existed before.

1933

In the summer of this year, a census of Gilmer children reveals that we have precisely the same number of school-age boys as of girls—1340 of each.

March 7. Teacher salaries are being cut, but an improved appreciation of qualified teachers appears in the pay schedule.

June 5. Ellijay summer school enrolls 200 teachers and begins to give "college credits." It runs until July 18, enrolling from 18 counties.

1934

About this time a contract for construction of a new schoolhouse at Ellijay is let to the Barrett Construction company of Dalton for $40,917.

1936

About this time buses for high school students wishing to reach Ellijay are authorized.

July 1. School term is extended from five to six months.

July 24. The distribution of free school texts begins.

1937

Governor Ed Rivers raises the term of public schools, throughout Georgia, to seven months. But this generous gesture was not put into effect in Gilmer promptly.

1940 (Feb. 6)

The school term is advanced from six to seven months.

1942

Early this year Ellijay school district approves a $15,000 bond issue, the proceeds to be applied on a high school building in Ellijay.

Fortunately, Ellis Arnall became governor of Georgia this year, and continued in office until 1947. He led the van in doing things for our schools. In fact, he proved that any governor of Georgia who really wants to can do much more for enlightenment than is usually done.

Mr. Arnall led in promoting vocational education in training the physically handicapped; increased the percentage of funds provided for schools by the state, so that Georgia stood 4th in the nation instead of 47th as it had been.

During his administration Georgia rose to first place among states in the percentage of total state income devoted to education. Mr. Arnall's administration provided for a full twelve months school program, and paid teachers accordingly.

Georgia's schools were freed from political interference. A State Constitutional Board of Education and State Board of Regents were created by constitutional provision.

For the first time in Georgia's history, his administration adopted a state teacher retirement system whereby our teachers were paid retirement compensation and pensions.

His policies encouraged many competent teachers that had withdrawn from teaching for better paying work to return to teaching.

He also effected the establishment of area trade school vocational programs; developed the plan for the Minimum Education Foundation under which the state educational program now moves ahead.

By the middle of 1947 no teachers could be procured for a number of public schools.

About this date Governor M. E. Thompson ups salaries and other educational support.

1950

On January 19, 1950, students of vocational agriculture and veteran farm trainees occupy a new $15,000 building in Ellijay.

July 18. A bond issue for $160,000 for schools is endorsed by voters of the County.

1951

About May 25. The State School Building authority approves $681,192 to be expended in the County.

July 17, 1952. Gilmer Library has 6,000 volumes.

September 1. A fire having seriously damaged Ellijay High school building June 12, the new school term begins with many students dispersed over Ellijay.

1954

Feb. 11. Bids for building or expanding the following schools are opened in Atlanta: Gilmer County high, Boardtown, East Ellijay, Oakland, Cherry Log, Henry Grady, Tails Creek, Tickanetley. But the bids were all rejected because in excess of appropriations set up for this purpose.

Contracts for construction, amounting to $600,000, were announced May 20.

Early in 1954 some important data on the Gilmer County library were released. The library opened July 1, 1940, in the County court house as a Federal project. It was sponsored by J & C Bedspread company, the City of Ellijay, the Woman's club. In 1943 the Lions club began donating to it $150 a year.

In the autumn of 1943 the library was moved to the Ellijay Elementary school. After 1946 the J & C Company discontinued giving to it. In 1945, 1946, 1947 the County Board of Commissioners gave $100 a year; from 1949 forward, $50 a year. The PTA helped one year.

The Woman's club, the Lions club and the Rotarians contribute regularly.

Mrs. Neita H. Cox was first librarian. Late in 1941 she was succeeded by Mrs. Lida King. Mrs. Willis Bradford was librarian for several years. Mrs. C. B. Cochran next served in a similar capacity.

In 1948 Mrs. Catherine Stembridge became full-time librarian; then in 1949, Mrs. Fannie Davis took over the same responsibilities. At present (1959) Miss Ethel Henson has succeeded Mrs. Davis.

On March 5 (1954) the Gilmer County Library board meets and projects transfer of library facilities to the new school building. This board consists of A. H. Edwards, C. F. Owen, Bryan Parks, H. S. Peek, Charley Waters, Avary Dimmock, Mrs. H. E. Chastain, Mrs. E. T. Hudson.

This summer material is being laid down for the construction of educational buildings: Gilmer County high, Henry Grady, Boardtown, Southwestern. Three other schools will be improved and enlarged.

In April (1955) the completion of these new school buildings is announced: Entirely new at Boardtown, Henry Grady, Southwestern; additions to Cherry Log and Tails Creek.

1956

Friday, Aug. 24. A dedication program for Gilmer schools having buildings recently constructed is held at the new high school, called Gilmer High.

The day was also "open house" at the following schools:

Gilmer High (the County's only high school)

Ellijay (this and succeeding schools are, of course, elementary)

East Ellijay, Oakland, Southwestern, Henry Grady, Cherry Log, Boardtown, Tails Creek.

About Aug. 26 operators of the Gilmer Public school system announce that 80 teachers, all white,* are employed, 56 of these being elementary and 24 high school; estimated average state salary for the County's system is $2,931. Total needed for salaries, $234,480.

Current operating expenses and sick leave are calculated at $418 per teacher unit, totaling $33,440.

Other items of expense are: Transportation, $69,951; school building allotments, $57,400; equalization, contingent, $23,430; local administrative and supervisory expenses as determined by each local system, $16,432; for texts, school libraries and audio-visual aids, $8,059. Total, $443,192.

Of this total amount the system pays $29,038; the State, $414,154.

*Gilmer no longer has any Negro schools.

School enrollment is placed at 2,249. At Ellijay Elementary school, grades 1 to 8, both inclusive, enrollment is 606, while at Oakland it is 340. The Gilmer High school reported a total of 633 students enrolled at the close of 1957.

1958

Jan. 18. Paul Matthiessen becomes musical instructor of Gilmer County high school.

Jan. 22. Gilmer wins a district one-act play and attains a tie on debating.

April 10. Gilmer High school is awarded regional literary trophy for winning the highest number of points in competition with six other schools of this section of Georgia. Gilmer wins first place in the one-act play, girls' trio, home economics, girls' typing, and a first-place tie in debating.

Teacher Personnel

to Instruct the 1958-59 Term

Principals are listed first under each school.

Boardtown—Bryan Parks, T. J. Hampton, Mrs. Nola Helen Stephens.

Cherry Log—Buchanan—Mrs. Nina Crawford, Mrs. Clara Bell Jones, Mrs. Lola Jones.

Ellijay Elementary—Kenneth Beaver, Mrs. Mary Bailey, Mrs. Elizabeth Bradford, Mrs. Edith Brown, Mrs. Fannie Davis (Librarian), Mrs. Lucile Dover, Miss Lorena Gudger, Miss Nena Gudger, Miss Ethel Henson, Miss Josephine Hipp, Mrs. Barbara Morrow, Miss Winifred Hudson, Mrs. Janelle Knight, Mrs. Irma McCutchen, Miss Marie Milton, Mrs. Mildred Parks, Mrs. Lois Parks, Mrs. Ruby Pinson, Miss Edna Pinson, Jimmy Weeks, Mrs. Etta Mae Weeks, Mrs. Louise Mosley.

East Ellijay—W. D. Whitener, Mrs. Ninnie Allen, Mrs. Marynell Dover, Mrs. Dorothy L. Edmondson, Miss Dora Parks, Mrs. Joyce West, Miss Bell Weeks, Mrs. Vera Williams.

Gilmer High

Warner Holloway, Miss Mary Bryant, Mrs. Inez Crisp, Paul Davis, Miss Ida Fendley, E. L. Prince, Don Gudger, Homer Hefner Jr., Miss Oleeta Holt, Calvin Jackson, Miss Frances James, Paul Matthiessen, Mrs. L. A. Edwards, Miss Ethel Perry, Ancil Poole, Miss Jewel Camp, John H. Sluder, Miss Annie Stembridge, U. S. Worley.

Henry Grady—Walter F. Pettit, Miss Alice Lee Logan, Mrs. Alma Penland, Mrs. Lucile Ward, Mrs. Vivian Woodring.

Oakland—Grady L. Crisp, Miss Maggie Flynn, Mrs. Elsie Gillam, Miss Verdie Lowman, Miss Oden Martin, Mrs. Bonnie Norris, Mrs. Bessie Osborn, Lee Roy Tillman, Mrs. Hester A. Tillman, Mrs. Lemma Williams, Mrs. Venta Lee Worley.

Southwestern—Glover Parks, Mrs. Robert Burnette, Mrs. Gladys Crooke, Miss Elgaree Davis, Mrs. Minnie Hensley, Mrs. T. C. Withrow, Mrs. Jane Prince.

Tails Creek—Miss Reba Kinser, Mrs. Myrtle Martin, Miss Nell Tatum.

Visiting Teacher—Grady L. Ellis.

Instructional Supervisor—Mrs. Mozelle Talley.

Secretary—Mrs. Mayford McClurd.

County School Superintendent—J. Everett Weeks.

As we close our record Gilmer High school is preparing to expand its buildings and facilities southward on reserve ground wisely provided in advance by our school authorities.

This land was first graded down to a level with buildings already erected. The surplus clay thus procured was sold to the State Highway department for use in road building.

Facilities to be placed on this plot will be an athletic field, a gymnasium, tennis courts and provision for health activities in general.

The Spirit of the Flat Top— a Reminiscence

1. Its School Spirit

The spirit of the little community on Flat, or Flat Top, Mountain, in the very northwestern corner of Gilmer County, reveals a splendor meriting a place at the close of this phase of our History. The attitude of the little isolated group toward their school has been an inspiration to the writer. It is included here for that reason and the added human touch it brings.

All facts in the account were furnished by Samuel J. Sorrels, who lived up there and lived this life with the others. Mr. Sorrels was born in Louisville, Kentucky, May 16, 1867. He arrived at Ellijay first March 2, 1872. He attended school a month there, and was taught by Tom Craigo.

On May 16, 1872, his family took him to live on Flat Mountain, 14 miles out. He lived there with Mr. and Mrs. David Sorrels. He was an adopted child of Mrs. Sorrels, who was his great-aunt. The family remained on Flat Mountain until Nov. 2, 1879, when its members journeyed to Dalton in an oxcart and there took passage by train for Seymour, Indiana. There Mr. and Mrs. Sorrels worked as tailors till March 16, 1881. The couple earned and set aside $700, which they invested in the purchase of 700 acres of land on Flat Mountain at a dollar an acre.

Mrs. Sorrels (widowed of her husband two weeks before she left Indiana) and young Sam went back to live on Flat Mountain, where they arrived about April 1, 1881. Sam spent the summer there helping his aunt make a crop. Samuel Sorrels lived until 1938. But it is about his first stay on the mountain that he tells us.

"My educational career began when the neighbors on Flat Mountain built a little schoolhouse out of round chestnut poles. The length of the house was 20 feet, the width 18. It had no fireplace or other means of heating. The teacher, Joe Walker, was cheered with a salary, for the term, which constituted for us a school year, of $27. He held out a while for $30 but I remember he didn't get it. He was the only one in the room who was honored with a chair of any kind.

"In that he sat with a huge switch, six feet long at least, in his hand. With it he could quell the too exuberant or would-be obstreperous spirit almost from where he sat. But, the better to warm our jackets, he generally got up and went round to offenders. School began its first session in 1876.

"The scholars consisted entirely of some 16 children who could not leave the mountain top to go to school. The round trip to Zion Hill, nearest neighborhood school, was not less than ten miles.

"Joe Walker, who, like myself, lived on the mountain, was my first teacher. Mountain neighbors, in addition, were Jack Jones, John Milsaps, John Beaver

besides Dave Sorrels, uncle of mine. Cousins to me, Hoke, John and Joe Frady, lived several miles away, off the mountain. But they boarded with my uncle Dave and attended our school to swell its meager size. The school was publicly supported.

"School began the first Monday in July—the most delightful time of the year in our mountain climate—and continued six weeks to two months.

"We spelt from Webster's Blueback, used McGuffey's readers and Davies' primary arithmetic. We skipped geography, likewise English in all its branches. Nor did we study writing. We worked out all our arithmetic on slates. We had no speeches or singing. On Friday afternoons we 'cross-spelled.'

"We lacked blackboards and about all other more modern school furniture you might now call necessary. Walls, puncheon benches, which were thick halves of split trees bored from the round side with two large auger holes at each end and set up on legs thrust into these were all we could claim along that line.

"We felt an inner lift when we reached that point in our Bluebacks known among us of that day as 'baker,' and, after that 'horseback.' We might spell along this far by heart. Finally we were approaching, by another hurdle, a supreme test in 'immateriality' and 'indivisibility.'

"We were, before much more delay, primed and ready for 'incomprehensibility.' We slashed that formidable word into syllables, building the word as we went and pronouncing the completed word at the finish of the closing syllable.

"Our method of study was by blabbing. But we weren't permitted to blab loudly enough to drown recitations. Our school was our vacation rather than the period of 10 months when we had none.

2. Life Outside of School

"I think we used well that time outside of school. We might call it now training in vocations. We knew it only as making a living and a sort of apprenticeship in wrestling with realities. Sometimes we did little more than save our skins. Winter was too severe for our kind of school. One night in 1877 it snowed 25 inches in one night, and we were snowbound for more than a week.

"In the fall we picked up bushels of chestnuts and carried them out over roads rough beyond belief to Rome, where we bartered them for shoes, sheeting, shirting and calicoes. But my aunt, right there on the mountain, wove woolen cloth, which we called lindsey; jeans, blankets and counterpanes were other weaves. From scraps and remnants of these she could fashion hats.

"We ranged cattle, sheep, hogs and a few horses on the 6,000 acres about us and in our own meadows. Even in winter our cattle found our meadows worth picking at if these were not snowed under or glazed with ice. We brought fat hogs in from the mast, toward Christmas, fed them four to ten days to harden their fat, and then killed them.

"No man among us went to salt or feed stock without taking a gun with him. We left the gun only when we went to work in the open fields—and sometimes needed it there. For great eagle-like hawks carried away our chickens and panthers caught our hogs.

"While we battled with the elements and wild beasts, we managed to raise fine corn. Our rye grew thick and tall. The heights were too cool for sweet potatoes. But we dug Irish potatoes that were said to have weighed four pounds apiece. Turnips were the biggest and finest I ever saw. We harvested two that weighed respectively eleven and a quarter and eleven and three quarters pounds. So large were they we sent specimens to be exhibited in Atlanta.* One season we mowed 22 stacks of hay by hand.

*Probably to the International Cotton Exposition of 1881.

"Mainly we ate rye and corn bread. Since wheat flour had to be toilsomely packed in on horseback, we ate biscuits only on Sunday mornings for breakfast.

"But there were sights and experiences on Flat Mountain to thrill a boy. One cold but sunny Christmas morning a heavy snow lay everywhere. I looked out, eager to be in it, when I spied a panther that had crawled up on some large tree stumps in front of our house. I believe he slept in the sun until a small deer came hopping by. Then he jumped down and took after the deer. Another panther chased me home and walked on our roof. I saw eagles battle overhead."

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Tal-lo-ney Mission school was so important in "Indian days" that we have treated it more fully elsewhere. It was a private enterprise.

Miss Lulu Holt, several years before her death, told me that Turniptown community long supported a private school. Winslow Smith was teaching one of these soon after the Civil War.

Another teaching here was Arthur L. Pinson. Mr. Pinson also taught in a school at Cherry Log during the 1870s. Others instructing there were Burdine Ellington, Miss Belle Ellington, John Perry.

The long terms of ten months taught at Buckhorn in the 1850s by Landrine J. Tatum and perhaps by his successor, Chris M. Briant, would indicate a much larger private investment than that of the state.

Sometimes a teacher would teach in his or her home. Miss Lollie Bell (the first Mrs. A. H. Burtz) taught in both private and public schools in Ellijay. This was in the late years of private schools at Ellijay. But people still living in the city can recall private schools, and a few attended them. Private schools here seem to have flowered about the time the Shippen families lived here.

Today our only private school is that maintained by the Seventh Day Adventists, which is located in Tails Creek district.

Oakland School

Oakland School, or Academy, located eight miles east of Ellijay in Cartecay district, has the honor of being the first of mission-type schools in modern Gilmer. Its long and dedicated career antedates the revival of the public school system following the Civil War. Among its teachers and students have been persons of intellectual note as well as distinction in public service.

It has, of all the rural schools of Gilmer County, the choicest, most convenient location. Like the Berry Schools, it was favored, in its location, by nature. The spot is said to have caught the eye of the pioneer. The beauty of the surroundings aroused his worshipful nature. Its convenience added to its desirability, it having become, early in our history, a site for religious assemblies and camp meetings. For such purposes, it was incorporated in 1842.

Thus out of such an atmosphere, background and aspiration in which moved some of the nobler spirits participating in these meetings, and from the general social and religious life of the community, arose Oakland.

The school, a fitting memorial, surmounted the fine wooded knoll where its founders and associates had often sung, prayed, worshipped and rejoiced

together. In 1867, John H. Robeson, Nathan T. Tabor and other like-minded neighbors pooled ideas and means and built a house that consisted of a main long room with a chimney at each end. To this was erected, at right angles, an extension, or "L," with a third chimney at the outer end. The main room was first used, the "L" if needed after that.

The knoll, clad in native timber, mostly oak, naturally suggested the name Oakland. The wanderer among these trees is apt to participate in the pioneer spirit that gave birth to the school.

As far back as the 1830s Rev. D. B. Cumming was presiding elder over the Cherokee Country, of which Gilmer County was a part. Doubtless he was among the first to appreciate, sight out and employ the grounds for a preaching station. L. D. Ellington also preached here. His particular tent is said to have stood on the very spot now occupied by the school building. Rev. John H. Robeson and Capt. N. T. Tabor were both sons-in-law of Rev. D. B. Cumming. All shared notably in a common impulse to do good and help in enlightenment in their community. They had the New England Puritan's spirit toward learning.

Robeson and Tabor were assisted in erecting the first house (during the hard lean years succeeding the Civil War) by T. W. Tabor. Mr. Robeson taught the first term. W. D. Kirkland of South Carolina, Oakland's first graduate teacher, held the position of principal till the death of his wife. Members of the Robeson family thereafter continued to teach at Oakland till Mr. Robeson joined the North Georgia Conference. J. W. Glenn, one of Oakland's first students, often recalled the fine spirit and hospitality of the N. T. Tabor home, where he was a guest. On May 18, 1916, an old man now, he said, "I shall never forget the good influence of the school." Another early student there was Walter Mathis. On Jan. 16, 1908, he was a successful lawyer and Judge of Dallas, Texas. Don West, C. R. Allen, Clarence Walker and Miss Antha Mulkey also attended Oakland.

In 1873 J. W. Jones, who had graduated from Emory, and his wife (who had attended Wesleyan) owned and operated the school successfully for over two years. From 1873 to 1893 it was variously owned and operated, a part of the period by Dr. J. M. Watkins. E. Buffington* also had it in his possession. It experienced frequent change of teachers, and sometimes its term was only the three-months publicly supported term. For Oakland combined early its work with the public schools. In 1879 H. A. Hutsell was teaching there. September 10, 1880, R. W. Milner Jr., A. B., University of Georgia, and Mary R. Lewis, A. B., North Georgia Agricultural College, were associate principals. The trustees, on that date, were John M. Watkins, A. J. Hutchinson, Wilkie McHan, T. W. Tabor, George G. Heath. On the 17th of the following December W. F. Cruselle was teaching with Miss Lewis. In September 1881 Oakland had a "literary society." In December following W. W. Braswell was principal. In 1883 (April 8), under Miss Emma Tabor, it was reported as having nearly 60 pupils.

On November 5, 1885, C. C. Haley was principal. He slung printer's ink in an enterprising way, running prominent announcements in the Ellijay Courier. He was teaching there for at least a part of next year.

September 29, 1887, George W. Griner, A. B., headed the institution. Along with elementary courses of study he offered physiology, natural philosophy, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, rhetoric, composition, declamation, French, Latin, Greek, with preparation for entering college as high as the junior year.

In 1893 Miss Emma C. Tabor took charge. Earnest efforts were exerted to establish a permanent seat of learning of thorough and substantial quality, and

*Mr. Buffington, born January 20, 1832, died February 21, 1911, served in the 7th Georgia Cavalry, C. S. A.

to lengthen terms to ten months. The building was rented and the school, wedded to high purposes, started. Interest promptly grew, patronage picked up. The citizenship of the Oakland neighborhood, in 1895, proved their loyalty and faith in the school by purchasing it. Having freed it from private ownership and operation, the buyers deeded it to the M. E. Church, South.

On February 6, 1896, I. B. DeJournette and Miss Emma Tabor were principals, and the school scheduled a term of ten months (an advance in school term, provided it can be financed, by no means difficult in a favorable summer climate like Gilmer's) a year, divided into two terms. One was to begin the second Monday in July and the other Jan. 6. Rooms about the school were one dollar a month; board was $7 a month. English, math, science and Latin were offered.

On May 28, 1896, Oakland closed a term with speeches by A. S. Clay and J. C. Allen, which addresses were followed by a generous spread of dinner for everybody.

In the same year the trustees elected Mr. DeJournette—apparently the same man as taught during the preceding school year—to serve in a co-principalship with Miss Emma C. Tabor.

Several counties have frequently contributed to the Oakland school group. Many sturdy students used to board themselves, renting rooms or cottages and bringing their provisions with them. Years ago, $4 a month thus applied was said to cover the cost of providing for one student. Managers of the school once projected the erection of numerous dormitories to further reduce the cost to students of the school's facilities. This problem has been solved in part by modern roads, transportation, and the rise of multiplied institutions of learning.

On July 15, 1897, F. M. Pitts, Ph. M., succeeded Miss Tabor as principal. A new building, begun the 22nd of the preceding April, was nearing completion. The new structure, costing some $1500, in size 40 by 50 feet, with upstairs, was quite an improvement upon the old. It was located upon six acres of ground that became an integral and permanent part of the school plant. Three acres of the area came improved; the rest was conveyed in a natural, or wild, state.

This may look to us moderns a very modest foundation and achievement. But when one considers the times, the fewness of contributors and absence of all that we know as "state and federal aid," he will appreciate the step more. It required daring and adventure on somebody's part—and no little sacrifice all round.

Upon its new opening, Jan. 3, 1898, the school started off ambitiously enough, offering "high school, academic, classic, and normal courses. One may study higher mathematics, including field surveying, chemistry, and astronomy."

Jan. 10, 1899, F. M. Pitts, still at the head of the school, announced a plan to publish a paper, "The Educational Ladder," in connection with his operation of Oakland.

In the summer of 1903 the list of "Oakland Teachers" is listed as S. P. Wilson, Mrs. S. P. Wilson and Miss Lillie Smith. But by Dec. 3 of that same year we note that C. F. Owen headed the institution, with Miss Carol Shelton assisting and also teaching some music.

On June 16, 1904, Oakland renewed a library fund. This may have marked the beginning of the school's library facilities. But the community about it was early—probably first—among modern Gilmer communities in providing such opportunities.

Jan. 5, 1905, Rev. J. L. Anderson (who was later drowned in Owltown creek) was elected principal, with Miss Jessie (?) Broom of Gordon county to

assist him. In the autumn of that year (Nov. 2), W. F. Kent became principal, his assistant being Miss Dessie Harris. On the 4th of the following January (1906), Miss Mollie Hopper was also teaching. W. B. James became principal on March 24 of the same year.

Nov. 1. 1909. W. B. James is principal; Miss Florence Simmons, first assistant. March 29, 1911, Mr. James continues at the helm, and Miss Cora Barrow of Atlanta teaches with him. That fall Miss Clara Dally assisted Mr. James.

On Dec. 13, 1910, Oakland had three teachers and 140 students "from seven militia districts of Gilmer and three other counties of Georgia." Thirty of these boarded; ten were already licensed teachers. Under date of Oct. 28, 1912, W. B. James was still in charge, while Miss Ruby Griffin assisted in the work.

On Jan. 12, 1913, Mr. James had, as co-workers, Misses Nell Head and Nannie Pettit. That fall Miss Pettit withdrew and Miss Frances Holden took her place.

Nov. 25, 1915, Oakland announced an enrollment of 168—its largest enrollment to date. More than 35 of these were boarding students. The school now offered both elementary and high school courses. The music department had some 20 in its classes. A debating club was a part of activities. About 60 girls promise to support a benefit supper to purchase stoves and make repairs.

Jan. 14, 1916, the institution reports an enrollment of 130. Teachers for the 1916-1917 term were W. B. James and Miss Lola Swann and Miss Ruth Welchel. The connection of the popular W. B. James as principal of Oakland was continuous for 11 years. The beginning of his work in 1906 was to continue a term begun by another teacher. He stayed on till 1915.

Then Clark Ray was in charge a year. Then Mr. James was re-elected to teach the 1916-1917 term. But in December 1916 he resigned to become a rural mail carrier. L. U. Martin finished, in his stead, that term of school. Because of a severe case of pneumonia Mr. James was unable to carry the mail during the very severe winter of 1917-1918, and so assumed once more leadership of the school for the winter. This was the final phase of Mr. James' principalship of Oakland. Leaving teaching altogether, he went back to carrying the mail in the old neighborhood of his teaching days and associations.

He sometimes told his close friends how he used to sing soulful old songs he had learned at home and the churches he had attended. He declared this was uplifting to him as he rode along his route.

Jan. 4, 1918, while Mr. James was principal of Oakland, Miss Ruby Marie Bell was one of his assistants. Her subsequent record in educational work was notable. Graduated at Waleska in the spring of 1917 when she was 17 years of age, she lived with the R. L. Ayers family near the school house. She is said to have attended the University of Georgia and institutions of very high rating in the North. Miss Bell was also an artist of ability and exhibited paintings of exquisite charm.

While not attempting a complete list of the teachers of Oakland throughout its history, we might add a few succeeding the long tenure of Mr. James. During the 1920-21 term J. T. Ammons and Miss Ida Simmons and Miss Emma Twiggs conducted the work. On November 24 succeeding the school and community gave an open-air dinner to which the public was invited.

Next year Mr. and Mrs. Claude Griffith and Miss Ora Reece taught. The year 1922-23 N. W. Pettit, Miss Ida Simmons and Miss Verna Ray were the teacher staff. For 1923-24 teachers were Mr. Pettit, again, assisted by Misses Mary Pettit and Verna Ray. During 1924-25 Mrs. L. U. Martin and Misses

Stella Holt and Vercel Akins were the teacher group. Next year the same staff continued except that the position of Miss Akins was assumed by Mrs. W. C. Chastain.

During 1926-27 teachers were Miss Lillye Brown, Miss Hazel Williams and Miss Stella Holt. On May 4, 1928, Mountainview (often called Scrougetown) school consolidated with Oakland in one of the logical and practical steps to make a standard Georgia junior high school.

The school years 1927-29 L. J. McArthur, his wife, Miss Vera Akins and Miss Ethel Garrett were the teacher personnel. For the 1929-30 term, the old school house having burned and a new house being in course of construction, no school was taught.

On July 31, 1929, plans completed by the Gilmer County Board of Education and local citizens, projected a modern building in the full sense of the word to replace the old outmoded structure erected in 1897. While the old building was being removed by a crew of men preparatory to such a step, the building burned. This was the night of August 24. The trustees of Oakland donated the insurance on the house along with the valuable six-acre plot of ground belonging to the original school toward the proposed new school house.

With this step, the school ceased to be a partly church or community school and became a wholly public one. But it was founded upon the brave, sacrificial substructure of early days.

Sept. 20, 1929, actual construction (by a plan drawn by Edwards & Seyward, architects, of Atlanta) of the new building began in earnest. The finest building materials were available at the most modest prices. It was no trouble to find builders and their assistants—all of high and dependable quality.

Many Cartecay citizens, in transportation of building materials and in other ways, contributed to the handsome building. The County Board of Education and the writer of this History, then county school superintendent, gave much time and extra labor to see the work completed well into the finest school building Gilmer had produced up to that time.

May 17, 1930, the completed Oakland school house, "an artistically, comfortably and conveniently designed and executed brick building, with ample rooms, a handsome and spacious auditorium, chairs for the little tots, single desks for the larger students, and other up to date facilities," stood ready for occupancy.

July 14, 1930, Oakland opened its summer session in its new plant, already largely equipped. It started with six teachers and 230 students. By August 11, the enrollment had climbed to 301, proving how readily Gilmer folk respond to better opportunities. Buses were especially helpful in the rapid expansion of student rolls.

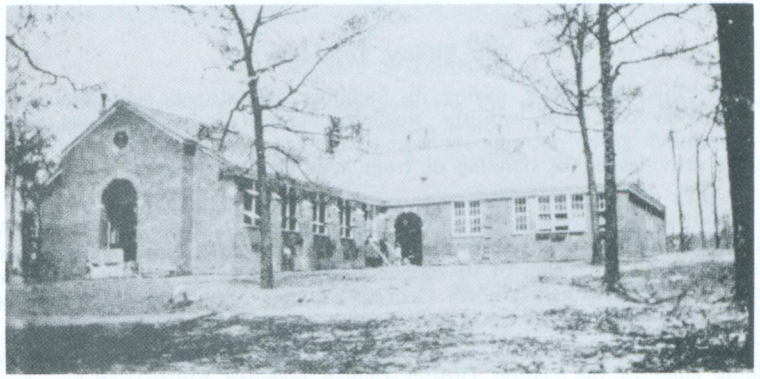
George W. Pettit was first principal to launch upon duty in the new building. From July to December 1931, James Tankersley was principal, and was assisted by Branson Pinson and Misses Ida Fendley, Hester Anderson, Frances Walton, and Eugenia Davis.

Dec. 2, 1932, Oakland added more equipment—teacher desks, built-in book shelves, a first-aid cabinet, globe and athletic suits.

This house, also, burned Jan. 3, 1940. With insurance, federal aid and local funds, another building was erected and full-scale school activities resumed. The fortunes of the school were again marred by a destructive fire in November 1955. Oakland had temporarily to scatter its children in other schools until the lost house was replaced by another building, which is still in use.

THE SECOND OAKLAND SCHOOL BUILDING

Erected in 1897, burned August 24, 1929. For this picture we are indebted to the W. B. James family of Ellijay.



OAKLAND SCHOOL HOUSE, COMPLETED 1931

This structure, built mainly in 1930, cost approximately $65,000, and would cost twice that now. It, too, was destroyed by fire January 3, 1940. The structure that replaced it was also burned in November, 1955. The building that replaced it is in use now.

The type of curriculum attempted at Oakland long varied somewhat with the principal in charge. For years it seems to have been high-school, with a few courses really belonging to college. Then it dropped to elementary. Upon its consolidation with Mountainview school, it once more advanced to junior high school rank, a policy to which it has adhered. The last four high school grades of this school district, as in all other sections of the County, attend Gilmer High school at Ellijay.

Oakland has needed from its founding more training for the hand in co-operation with the eye. This really helps the purely mental processes. The school has always had an atmosphere of respect for learning, piety and character. It has inculcated seriousness of purpose. It began, in fact, in that.

Teacher homes should eventually surround such strictly rural centers of education. Such subjects as expression, music (vocal included) and art, together with domestic arts and sciences will continue in favor. And Oakland will find step with the modern trends toward science and its application toward space understanding and problems.

Oakland has been memorialized in recent years by a marker on the spot, which reads as follows:

Oakland Academy

"The educational center for this section for years, Oakland Academy was established in 1867, following the War Between the States, by Nathan T. Tabor and John E. Robeson, first teacher.

Originally a private school, it was operated for many years as a church school by the M. E. Church (South). Students attended the academy from this and surrounding counties. In 1920, when the private school was discontinued, the property was deeded to Gilmer County for a county school.

Early teachers included John E. Robeson, W. F. Cruselle, Mary Lewis, Rev. Walter Dillard, Emma Tabor, Harriet E. Tabor, Mary Kirby and John S. Hudson."

The Ellijay Seminary

The Ellijay Seminary, during its founding and struggle to sustain itself, was intimately connected with the Northern branch of the Methodist church. For this church group not only sponsored its educational work but conducted its religious activities in the building or from it as headquarters.

In 1873 the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church decided, on its own initiative and responsibility, to establish a school for neglected young white people. After careful deliberation the school was located and was known as the Ellijay Seminary. The plan of its founders was to serve, in addition to Gilmer County, several surrounding north Georgia counties. Within this territory there was then no school of academic rank, or grade.

The board of trustees gave notes for a $1,000 site. Jerome Spilman, then presiding elder of the Dalton District (which included Ellijay) of his church started a subscription list and kept it going. An $8,000 initial building was planned. Local people gave. Spilman went north, visiting Philadelphia, in behalf of the school. To this enterprise he himself gave with a liberality and personal consecration never surpassed in the history of Gilmer County.

A list of contributors to the Seminary, on June 20, 1874, reveals persons that were the leadership of their day: D. Sorrels, William Ellington II, T. F. Greer, J. C. Allen, W. C. Allen, John W. Moreland, B. Wilson, William Nelson,

JEROME SPILMAN

Foremost amoung Founders of the Ellijay Seminary. On November 6, 1875, we hear he has bought a nursery near Dalton and plans to improve it.

D. A. Smith, G. W. Heath, G. H. Randell, A. Bishop, L. P. Smith, M. V. Smith, T. H. Triplett, John W. Holt, B. M. Hipp, D. E. Slagle, J. Spilman of Atlanta, whose contribution was the largest by 30 times over. Mr. Spilman was the presiding elder of the Dalton District of the M. E. Church which sponsored the seminary and was the main contributor to it.

By 1875 over $4,000 had been raised. Of this initial sum, $1,500 came from the Southern Educational Society, a department of the Freedman's Aid Society. The Ellijay Methodist Church, during that year, is credited with donations of $920; Baptist, with $671; the M. E. Church, South (already investing at Oakland), $194, while non-church members donated $91.

And this list by no means accounts for all contributors and contributions, some of which were not in the form of cash. Mrs. Laura Cox, for instance, was said to have permitted use of clay and the processing of the brick derived from it and employed in constructing the main building, from her land.

In general, while there was a tendency on Ellijay's part to withhold permanent title to property for the seminary, the community did much to establish the plant. Then Northern people did the equipping in a general way.

DR. AND MRS. R. H. ROBB

Both Dr. and Mrs. Robb (who was an early force for temperance, one of the noblest since Carmel, 60 years before) were generous consultants in the creation of this History. They freely placed at our disposal all the data they had collected, also the rich reminiscences of their days at Ellijay.

No honor that can ever be accorded the Robbs will be too great. Their hopes and dreams centering at Ellijay should be combined with their actual achievements.

At one time the people of Cincinnati, Ohio, gave $1,000. Appeals had to be prolonged, partly because, although the school opened in the fall of 1875, it had to do so with a deficit of $4,000.

If we take events of the Seminary in chronological order, it would be important, at this point of its progress, to consider a man who was acquainted with the whole history of the institution. That would be Dr. R. H. Robb and his work.

Doctor Robb, deceased some years since, lived long enough to review affairs of the school for future generations. He had a worthy part in its progress. He lived his last years in Atlanta and spent his summers in Epworth. His interest in the Ellijay Seminary was aroused while he was still living in Philadelphia. Here he met J. Spilman, on a tour of the North in behalf of the school.

And the generous and energetic Spilman appealed for workers as well as funds in such educational and religious work. Doctor Robb answered this call, arriving at Dalton late in June of 1875. J. Spilman was on hand. Exercising his faculty for getting things done, Spilman engaged Abisha Bazemore to take young Robb across the Cohutta mountains eastward into Gilmer County.

Dr. Robb, as he later came to be called, came up Holly Creek, crossing the stream the customary "over 17" times. He spent his first night in Gilmer with Bailus M. Hipp, fellow worker in Mountaintown district. This was Friday. The next day he came on into Ellijay and met Lou Ellington, another co-worker to be. Saturday night he was the guest of Barnett Wilson, son-in-law of Rev. B. B. Quillian. He did not meet till next day L. D. Ellington, whom he was to assist in the ministry.

The cornerstone laying of the Seminary occurred in 1873. Its dedication came Sept. 11 and 12, 1875, and it was sufficiently completed for its work to begin the same fall, with ex-Union soldier, John F. Palmer, native of the state of Indiana, at its helm. Mr. Palmer arrived at Ellijay Sept. 29, 1875.

Dec. 24. The first fall of its existence, the seminary had already enrolled about 50 scholars, as the old timers always referred to students. More were in immediate prospect. Mr. Palmer announced, May 31, 1876, 50 as still in the institution.

The next school year, that of 1876, W. W. Kirkpatrick of Tusculum college, Tennessee, has a hand in affairs. On October 2 Wilbur F. Turner, A. B., afterward a prominent attorney of Knoxville, Tenn., was reported as heading the seminary as it opened its second year. Dr. Robb said Mr. Turner had taken Palmer's place as principal.

Oct. 1. The Ellijay Debating society met. David Garren, president of the group, was in the chair. The subject for debate was "Are fititious writings injurious to society?"

J. C. Allen and W. J. R. Hyatt spoke for the affirmative side. Dr. E. W. Watkins and J. A. Pollard (newly arrived to teach in the seminary), supporting the negative side, lost the decision. The next subject set for discussion was "Ought males to be more highly educated than females?"

May 19, ca. 1877. T. W. Craigo was principal; S. P. Brokaw, assistant.

July 12, 1878. The seminary announces its purpose to become a preparatory school to the East Tennessee Wesleyan university at Athens, Tenn., and will consequently adapt its courses of study to such objective. The general supervision of the school is to be under Dr. Spence of that institution. Rev. S. P. Brokaw, who taught in the school in 1877, is to continue his connection.

Spring of 1879. Students of the seminary, with Eilijay addresses, at the term's end are: Alfred Bishop, John Bishop, Lafayette Bishop, Larkin Bishop, Lottie Corbin, Effie Corbin, Lula Corbin, Cordelia Craig, Robert Craig, W. B. Cox, Barnard Dillingham, Davenport, E. W., Davenport, Harve; Gudger, Willie; Greer, Christopher; Greer, L. B.; Greer, Caster; Greer, John; Greer, Garrett; Greer, Allie; Greer, Nannie; Ganer, John; Hipp, Martha; Hipp, Lavisa; Hipp, Alonzo; Hipp, Laura.

Hipp, Ella; Hipp, Arvil; Hipp, Oscar; Hipp, Lomah; Hyett, Willie; Hyett, Florence; Hyett, Virgil; Hyatt, Otis; Johnson, Willie; Johnson, James; Killian, Addie; Kirby, Laura; Kirby, Thurston; Long, Emma; Long, Willie; Pharr, R. W.; Pharr, J. M.; Perry, J. P.; Randall, William; Randall, Melissa; Randall, Ophelia.

Randall, Lizzie; Randall, Oscar; Roberts, Nora; Rector, Johnson; Smith, Lucius; Smith, Hamilton; Smith, Sam; Smith, Henry; Smith, Julia; Starks, Laura; Wilson, W. V.; Wilson, T. A.; Wilson, T. O.; Wilson, Cannie; Watkins, I. D.; Watkins, Stella; Walker, Willie; Willis, Mollie; Willis, Sarah; Ward, Sarah; Ward, Charley.

From Walesca, Georgia: Armstrong, J. T.; Cline, J. M.; Edwards, W. S.

From Canton, Georgia: Donehoo, William; Donehoo, Ada; Donehoo, William Jr.; Westbrooks, W. J.; Westbrooks, J. F.; Westbrooks, J. W.; Westbrooks, William.

From Marietta, Georgia: Withers, T. H.; Wheeler, Alice.

From Morganton, Georgia: Foster, J. T.; Herring, Thaddeus; Wilson, D. M.

From Mountaintown (Gilmer Militia district): Frady, Mollie; Gudger, Delia; Gudger, Emma; Wheeler, Palestine; Wheeler, Fannie; Wheeler, Alice; Wheeler, Maggie; Wheeler, James.

From Turniptown (a Gilmer community): Holt, Nannie A.; Holt, Mattie J.; Holt, Western; Smith, Laura.

From Ludville (Pickens county): Haley, C. C.; Pharr, J. M.; Pharr, R. W.

From Dalton, Georgia: Rollen, Emma.

From White Path Springs: Searcy, Calvin.

1880

The first Tuesday of February the Masonic fraternity takes control of the Seminary.

Oct. 15. Students with unusual records: Christie Greer, Mollie Frady, Bessie Galt, Carter Greer, Effie Welch, Alice Greer, Estell Watkins, Walter Cobb, Garrett Greer, Homer Cobb, Laura Hipp, Joseph Jarrett, Dord Bradley, Alice Bradley, Mary Bramlett, Berta Combes, James Johnson, Lolie Hipp, Emma Long, Willie Hyatt.

1881

Feb. 1. Ownership of the Seminary is transferred to Rev. R. S. Rust. This places the school under the direct control and patronage of the M. E. Church. J. L. Fowler endeavors to take over all remaining indebtedness against the institution.

May 26. The Seminary offers its first annual exercises consisting of examinations, addresses by J. W. Henley, F. C. Tate, E. O. Fuller, T. H. Triplett, and Dr. Mitchell; speeches by students; music, essays and acting.

REV. JAMES LOWRY FOWLER

He once mortgaged his home to save the Ellijay Seminary.

1882

May 4-5. The "second annual exercises" of the Seminary consist of a primary exhibition, music, a public debate on the question, Which is the more pernicious character, the slanderer or the flatterer? an address by Rev. T. H. Triplett; original speeches, essays and drama.

Nov. 30. M. G. Bates, A. B., is principal of the Seminary; Miss Mary C. Kirby, assistant.

1883

May 4. The third annual exercises of the Seminary:

Examination ..... Primary
Address ..... E. O. Fuller
Examination ..... Higher Classes
Declamations:
Willie Long ..... The Crying Boy
Hiram Carroll ..... Knowledge
Walter Cobb ..... The Orphan Boy
Burd Greer ..... Official Press
Garnett Allen ..... Persevere
Willie Cobb ..... The Rooster
Larkin Bishop ..... What I Love to See
Columbus Hipp ..... Evening Hymn
Eddie Bishop ..... The Battle of Busaco
Sallie Spencer ..... The Cradle Song
Ella Hipp ..... Love Your Enemies
Vesta Allen ..... The Lord's Prayer
Bettie Bishop ..... The Lord Will Hear
Florence Hyatt ..... You Know You Do
Mary Tankersley ..... Be a Woman
Mollie Cobb ..... Going to School
Nathan Cobb ..... Good Nature
Horace Ellington ..... The Indians
Wilborn Tankersley ..... The Birthday of Washington
C. M. Curtis ..... Labor
M. Z. Bates ..... Human Action
Joseph Jarrett ..... First Ambition
John W. Garren ..... Our Duty to the Public
M. P. Bates ..... The Integrity of the Republic
P. P. Carroll ..... Despise not the Day of Small Things (original)
Essays:
Laura Hipp ..... Happiness
Ophelia Randall ..... Farewell
Lula Bates ..... Friendship
Martha Carroll ..... The Sun
Cordelia Craigo ..... The Sun
Dialogs: Playing Doctor, A Suit for Libel, Old Heads on Young Shoulders, The Indian Raid
Goodnight ..... Laura Greer

M. G. Bates, Principal

Mr. Bates, after three years of service as principal of the Seminary, retires May 10 to teach at Ball Ground. On Aug. 4 following it is announced T. W. Craigo is in charge of the Seminary, and that enrollment there is 82.

Quite a stretch of time had transpired since Dr. R. H. Robb had come to Gilmer. Those were the days when, for instance, as he approached Gilmer for the first time, he had heard a spinning wheel groaning in a cabin and looked out over a meadow to find the bull he thought was making the noise. He had served in rural churches for years since, spending so many days and nights in homes without a mirror that he jokingly told the writer he "almost forgot what manner of man he was."

His type of ministry was to change. For in April 1884 he was elected principal of the Ellijay Seminary. The school, already nine years old, was attracting students from Fannin, Murray, Pickens, Dawson, Lumpkin, Cherokee, Hall counties as well as from Gilmer County; it occasionally enrolled a student from a border state. In July following Dr. Robb (who had already married Miss Nannie Auten) moved to Ellijay. That same year his son, James L. Robb, once head of Tennessee Wesleyan college, Athens, Tenn., was born in Atlanta. Dr. Robb continued two years in charge.

During his term of service Dr. Robb, deeply sympathetic with students short of money during these years of hard-to-come-by dollars, he fitted up a "dormitory" for the benefit of ambitious but impecunious boys. Here they could move in, bring in a few supplies from home and "batch," that is, do their own housekeeping. The historic old dormitory burned Sept. 7, 1926.

Dr. and Mrs. Robb boarded girls in their own home.

1885

Oct. 19. The Georgia M. E. conference, Ellijay, aids the school.

About this year the Ellen W. Coffin Literary society selects the following young ladies officers for the ensuing term: Misses Tine Coleman, president; Laura Hipp, vice president; Mollie Ellington, recording secretary; Mattie Waters, corresponding secretary; Ina Teem, treasurer; Estell Watkins, critic; Cassie Weaver, librarian; Ella Haley, Mary Tankersley, Alice Greer, editors.

1886

May 13. J. H. Early succeeds R. H. Robb as principal.

Ca. 1886. Professor Ledbetter will begin an extra class in German.

After the class is familiar with the simple forms of speech, conversation in the recitation room will be altogether in German.

Dec. 2. Twenty-seven students are being accommodated in dormitories provided by the institution.

1887

March 18. E. W. Coleman and W. S. Coleman debate with Hugh Boyd and John H. Early the question, Resolved, that conscience is in all cases a correct moral guide.

June 8. The seminary is host to an important union Sunday School rally.

June 28. Rev. B. B. Quillian, at a seminary chapel, pays feeling and eloquent tribute to John Wesley Bramlett, who died in the spring of 1887 at the age of 92. Although Mr. Quillian is 74, he sustains himself well in his discussions.

He and Mr. Bramlett heard, in July 1833, the first sermon on record as having been preached in Ellijay. The address was delivered by William Ellington I,

who spoke on "Godly Sorrow and the Sorrow of the World." The service was held under an oak in the yard of Clemonds Quillian, whose house stood where the bank is now located. This giant tree stood long after.

Nov. 10. Ellijay is operating both the seminary (under direction of W. D. Allen, who appears to have come into his position soon or immediately after the retirement of Dr. Robb) and the old Gilmer academy. This same autumn J. C. Tallant joins the seminary work also.

1889

Jan. 31. J. C. Tallant and W. D. Allen have charge of the institution.

1890

Seminary terms were nine months, quite in contrast to the four months of rural schools.

Rigid rules against dancing among Seminary students were said to have applied even during Christmas holidays.

In the Atlanta Constitution, Sept. 28, 1890, page 14, we learn added facts about the Seminary. J. E. Tallant is still principal, and is assisted by Mrs. C. N. Tallant and Miss Lima Hipp in the elementary branches of study. Mrs. T. W. Craigo and Miss Blanche Nichols assist with music. The whole number in attendance is 138.

1891. Mr. Tallant, Seminary principal still, sitting quietly at his desk, is one day startled by a sudden flapping of wings succeeded by a tremendous reverberation from the inside of his desk. A rooster had been concealed therein. This explosion was expected of course by the group of boys who had conspired to hide him in there.

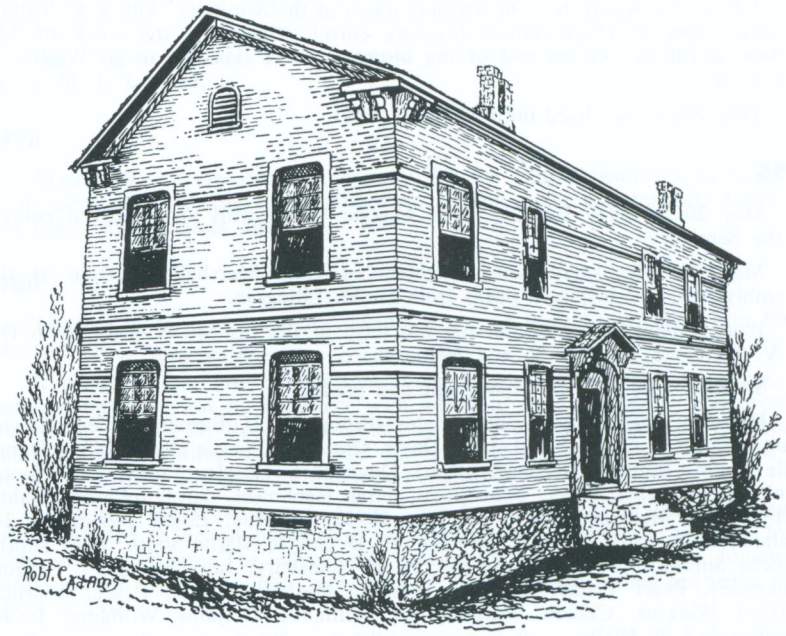
Jan. 15. The Seminary has enrolled 243 students. Whereas, the early difficulty had been to procure students, now the problem has become one of caring for those who come. Fifty have been turned away this season for want of dormitory space.

The seminary was most fortunate to have attracted, during the lean years following its opening (which occasion found it still $4,000 in debt)—a force and spirit like James L. Fowler. He once mortgaged his home to save the school. He visioned for Ellijay what was realized a generation later by Miss Martha Berry at Rome. He foresaw the whole of the magnificent Ellijay valley converted into a teeming educational enterprise on a vast scale that should embrace various forms of industrial training—the most serious lack at the Seminary.

April 30. Under "Seminary Dots" in the Ellijay Courier we read:

"The hall was crowded; everything came out with laudable good taste; all went merry as a marriage bell. A lecture by Dr. T. C. Carter, editor of the Methodist Advocate of Chattanooga, delivered on the subject, "Mistakes of Matrimony," delighted us Saturday night. The annual sermon on Sunday was also preached by Dr. Carter on the subject, "Poverty."

After the sermon, the purchase of ground (presumably, for the expansion of the institution's campus) lying between the Seminary and the foot of the hill on which it stands, and terracing the same came up for consideration, Dr. Carter starting the subscriptions off with $25. Hon. R. S. Carr and W. W. Hyatt followed with $25 apiece. Others contributed. Professor Tallant was re-elected president of the institution.



THE ELLIJAY SEMINARY, 1874 TO 1897

This drawing of this institution of learning was sketched from an old picture found in a contemporary file copy of the Atlanta Constitution. Robert C. Adams made our drawing.

May 28. The Seminary is referred to as "the high school at Ellijay," and is said to have four instructors and a student body consisting of 155 males and 77 females. This would equal 232. But the same summer the Seminary is credited with 115. The discrepancy may be the difference between a summer school and the total enrolled during a full scholastic year.

Dec. 20. The Ellijay Seminary enrolls 262 students. Of these, 145 are male, 117 female. Instructors, five; J. E. Tallant, principal.

1893

Feb. 9. The young men of the Seminary organize themselves into the J. C. Hartsell Literary Society, with officers: Victor Briant, president; J. E. Tallant, critic; N. W. Pettit, chaplain; N. F. Parks, sergeant at arms; Warner Smith, treasurer; G. F. Briant, secretary. subject set for discussion, "Resolved, that war has been more destructive than intemperance," and subject scheduled for later discussion, "Resolved, that America's glory exceeds her shame."

July 10-15. An institute of teachers meets at the Seminary, with J. E. Tallant directing. One hundred sixteen teachers enroll. This ends the work of Mr. Tallant at Ellijay. At the end of the institute, he is expected to go West to a new work.

This able leader lived until March 3, 1941.

1895

May 20, Monday Evening. Miss Maggie Welch wins an oratorical contest at the Seminary.

May 21. The small twin daughters of John Marshall entertain at the assembly hall, and inspire a poem from H. M. Ellington.

It was about this year that the fall term of the institution begins with Dr. R. V. Pierce, T. W. Craigo and Nellie Pierce as teaching staff.

Students creditable in deportment and grades:

Herschel Allen, Robb Bishop, Haley Bishop, W. H. Barnes, Estilena Chase, Pauline Cobb, J. O. Crawford, J. H. Davis, Ora Davis, Leslie Davis, Willie Dunn, Effie Dunn, Emma Davenport, Pearl Davenport, Charles Foote, Lee Foote, Stanley Foster, Jack Greer, Tom Greer, Sarah Isenhower, Sarah Johnson, Waldo Kirby, J. L. Moreland, Boyd Mulkey, Homer Mulkey, Edgar Nelson, J. H. Penland, R. L. Russell, Charles Russell, A. D. Smith, Mattie Smith, Julia Smith, Blanche Simmons, Frankie Simmons, W. F. Stansbury, Julia Stansbury, Colquit Tankersley, Pearl Tankersley, Ella Warlick, Harley Warlick, Crisler Warlick Clifford Watkins, Claude Watkins, Ed Williams, Dolphus Williams, J. R. Woodward, J. R. Wells.

1896

Feb. 5. Roy A. Simonds is elected head of the Ellijay Seminary.

May 21. The Seminary has a particularly happy closing. The Sapphonian Literary society for girls gives an evening of recitations, essays, debate, exhibiting talent as well as personal grace and charm.

The children have one night.

Nov. 12. C. S. Hicks, Ph. B., and Miss Alda Seawright, B. M., instructor in music, are on the teaching staff.

1897

March 7. The Ellijay Seminary burns about 10:30 p.m.* J. L. Fowler's vision for the school begins to fade. The school building was completed in 1875 at an initial cost of $8,000. Fostered by the Methodist church, its second floor serving that religious group as a meeting place, these people now face the added burden, also, of a new place to worship.

March 9. A public mass meeting, held at the courthouse at Ellijay, discusses the problem of housing the school children since the burning of the Seminary, and decide to use temporarily the school's dormitories and the town's churches.

July 8. Rev. J. H. Dunn and his supporters transfer their educational and religious activities to Fightingtown Camp Ground, now known as Epworth, in

*Another "authority" (perhaps reminiscing) says positively it was March 8, 1897, on a Monday night between 11 p.m. and midnight. But he must be right, for March 8, 1897, fell on Monday, as he stated.

Fannin county, about 18 miles north of Ellijay and four south of Copper Hill, Tennessee.

Dec. 23. Rev. R. H. Robb becomes presiding elder of the Ellijay district of the M. E. Church.

1898

March 10. An element, still hopeful for the Ellijay Seminary in the face of its adversities, repairs to the churches, student body and teachers together, and begin study classes again.

1900

Trustees of the old Seminary decide to cut up their Ellijay land into town lots and sell them.

It would be but fair to add that the managers of the Seminary were no quitters. But there was no insurance with which to start a vigorous and prompt rebuilding. Dr. R. H. Robb, still presiding elder of the Ellijay district, made endeavors in this direction. Lawsuits growing out of the earlier operation of the school further added to its financial handicaps.

There was the usual inertia. Many, including the editor of the local newspaper, objected to denominationalism and what they considered "politics" in a public school system. The educational endeavors of the seminary's founders, sturdy and efficient, were thus transferred to Epworth, where they opened a new school in 1900.

Educational responsibilities at Ellijay were fully assumed by the general public at its own expense and under its own direction.

While considerable credit belongs to local people for the founding of the Ellijay Seminary, the prime movers in this (one of the four noblest enterprises in our history) were "Yankee" and Yankee-influenced. Northern friends, for 25 fateful years, beginning during reconstruction, held on with us and helped swing our destiny definitely toward temperance, morals, culture, decency and the richer meaning of civilization.

No honor would be too great to accord their memory. Their impress upon us, like tall and lengthening shadows on a golden summer afternoon, still reaches us and subtly tinctures our destiny.

Of the four "noblest enterprises," during our history, besides the Seminary, are the establishment of Carmel (at first called Tal-loe-ney) Mission; the gift by Martin Scalf of the original ten-acre plot upon which Ellijay was built, and the gifts of Joe McCutchen and Mrs. McCutchen in 1944.

GILMER'S ONLY REMAINING PRIVATE SCHOOL

PLEASANT GAP ADVENTIST SCHOOL

First row, toward right: Micky Holverstott, Jimmy Yauger, Duane Higgins, Jerry Anderson.

Second row: Phyllis Williams, Nancy Anderson, Penny Speaker, Johnny Williams, Barbara Anderson.

Third row: Billy Schuler, Randy Schuler, John Anderson

Standing at back: Mrs. Eva Lysell, teacher; Joan Williams.
Taken on the back porch of the school. Adjacent building in the background, the Ellijay Adventist Church.

CHAPTER 13

Families

Discussion of these very early families is based mainly upon the Reminiscences of Rev. Bethel B. Quillian and William Ellington II. We have been able to collect data on a few families apparently overlooked or, for some other reason, omitted by them.

So far as time and facts enabled, we have connected a small number of these pioneers with their descendants and other family connections in modern Gilmer.

Besides, some families have given the best of co-operation in providing data. This explains the comparative completeness of some families. Other families have done iittle or nothing to make the History more complete.

However, we have finally found about all the material of the kind we could use.

Let this be added. Neither Mr. Quillian nor Mr. Ellington began their treatment of early families with any idea of establishing and discussing any complete roster of names of the County. Our History, recognizing the social significance of individuals, is in the main a running, connected narrative of trends and events, and is not a compilation of genealogy of little interest to anybody beyond the families listed.

Addington

The original settler was Clemmie Q., who had a brother Frank. Clemmie settled about Ellijay. There were two John Addingtons among the early pioneers. One of these lived in the Cartecay community, the other south by east of Ellijay at the Henry Webb place. The men were related.

The Cartecay John was said to have arrived in Gilmer, in the fall of 1831, from Macon county, North Carolina. He bought a place owned (in 1881) by a member of the McHan family, probably the Will McHan place. Here he remained until around 1850, when he sold out to Barnett Wilson and moved to Jackson county. There he bought the Cunningham plantation, six miles above Jefferson. Here he remained until his death in 1860.

Mr. Addington was a man of some means, and especially delighted in fine livestock. He was also remembered as an excellent farmer, for his industry (forceful and telling), his close dealing and his ready cash. He was never known to want the usual needs for substantial living. To his dining table went the best of his fields and gardens and the markets of his day. A Whig in politics, he was a member of the M. E. church for many years.

His wife survived till about 1877. His children, a few years later, were much scattered. He left a daughter in Gilmer. She married W. B. Ellington. And a youngest daughter, a Mrs. Ralston, lived in Fannin county.

Alexander

This family was widely known in Gilmer before the Indians were removed. John P., born about 1791, was head of the clan. He arrived from Habersham county about 1836 and bought out Col. Ben Goodman. He settled in the house

known to the people who saw the turn of the century and the next 10 years as the Central hotel. It stood just about where the Chevrolet company is, near the west side of the highway southward from the public square.

Mr. Alexander was a striking figure in local affairs. A slaveholder, he seems to have had considerable wealth with him when he came here. He finally owned most of the land suitable for crops around Ellijay; in fact, he was usually referred to as the wealthiest man in the County. His wife was a member of the widely known Tate family.

He acquired all the land immediately east of Ellijay to the Ellijay river, including what became a part of the modern Tankersley estate; all of the farm owned by Jesse Jarrett many years later, as well as a portion of the John P. Cobb farm, which land is south of the Cartecay river. He also owned about all the site of East Ellijay.

Alexander was known as a good farmer, being very energetic in the cultivation of his extensive lands. Some reminiscences would have it that he worked right in the fields with his slaves and free labor. William Ellington II, who lived till Dec. 23, 1927, however, denied that he did so.

Mr. Ellington remembered that Alexander had a half-blind, feeble-minded son that usually took oversight of farm operations. By the spring of 1878 this son (Joe, or Bud Joe) was totally blind. Mr. Alexander also ran a hotel, called Central. Neighbors conceded that, since he raised so many of his hotel supplies, he had more than average chance to profit from this enterprise.

The Negro quarters of Alexander contrasted strangely with the appearance of modern Ellijay, in which no Negroes live. These quarters covered a considerable part of central Ellijay north of River street. From the vicinity of the Ellijay Drug store, these fanned out toward the present school plant. Alexander also owned the corner now occupied by Gilmer courthouse. About this time an old wooden hotel erected by Ben Goodman occupied the site.

Alexander was as interesting as his enterprises. He was limited in education, but his native intellect was good; his style and manners whimsical and sometimes awkward. His manner of arguing questions, for instance, defied imitation. He concealed the point of a contention till he had had his say.

Upon one occasion, B. B. Quillian was trying to convince Mr. Alexander on a point of law. Mr. Quillian, already entertaining misgivings of winning the argument, said, "I will leave the matter to Sam Jones, your brother-in-law."

"Now, jist let me tell," Alexander replied. "Some people calls Sam Jones a smart man. But what I call a smart man is one that can see anything before it comes to a point that any fool could see and understand afterwards."

Quillian gave up.

"Uncle Jack" was the name many people gave him. In numerous respects he was a desirable citizen. Kind of heart, he did not like to see any suffering to anybody that could be prevented. He was kind and obliging to his friends. The number of these was betokened when Gilmer sent him to the Legislature. He was a Henry Clay Whig, while his opponents, Col. Pickett and Judge Kelley, were both Democrats. With this advantage, he won by some 100 votes. But he never entered politics again.

After living at Ellijay for many years, Alexander, about 1852, sold his property to Alfred B. Roberts and moved to Catoosa county. From there he removed to Battle Creek, Tennessee, settling on the fine lands of the basin. But, owing to some legal entanglement in Catoosa (reportedly over land titles), together with loss of slaves and other property during the Civil War period, his wealth began melting away.

William Ellington said Alexander became involved heavily in a financial way when he was compelled to assume responsibility for a quarrel that ended in a killing. The trouble was supposed to have taken place on his Battle Creek premises. When he saw impending the loss of his slaves, and in hope of offsetting such loss, he was said to have deeded his lands to his half-wit son and to have taken his slaves with him and left his fine farms in Tennessee.

After considerable lapse of time and no few wanderings, he returned—meanwhile having lost his slaves—to his old home only to discover that sharpers had cheated the irresponsible son of his estate.

As late as January 1881, the old man was reported as sprightly and jovial at the age of 90, with B. B. Quillian hoping that time would still "deal generously" with him. Even though the poorest of men, he closed his days in Tennessee among kind and cordial friends who were faithful to him to the end.

The Jarrett cemetery was begun by the Alexander family as a private family burial plot, and members of the family were the first persons buried there. The Jarretts acquired the plot of ground from the Alexanders and permitted afterward the free use of burial space. Tombstones of the Alexanders there are becoming so weathered and stained that they are almost indecipherable. It is probable that the body of John P. Alexander was not buried here. Though it is possible to make out that Elizabeth Alexander (March 3, 1803—Sept. 2, 1845) was buried here. William L. Alexander died at Ellijay Aug. 26, 1850, in his 75th year.

Allen

John Allen was a real pioneer, his entrance into the County having preceded Indian removal. He and H. K. Quillian were said to have taken the contract to build the first county jail, for the construction of which they received $500. B. B. Quillian thought they did not finish this task till 1835, though a courthouse was near enough completion to accommodate our first court sessions in August 1833.

A William Allen settled early on the last farm up Rock Creek in Cherry Log district. He was born in 1820. His wife's maiden name was Dickerson. He had sons, Jay and John, and a daughter who married Ben Whitaker. She was the mother of Mrs. Johnnie Ray of Ellijay, to whom she remarked, "I was born right in the shadow of Cole mountain in the year 1853."

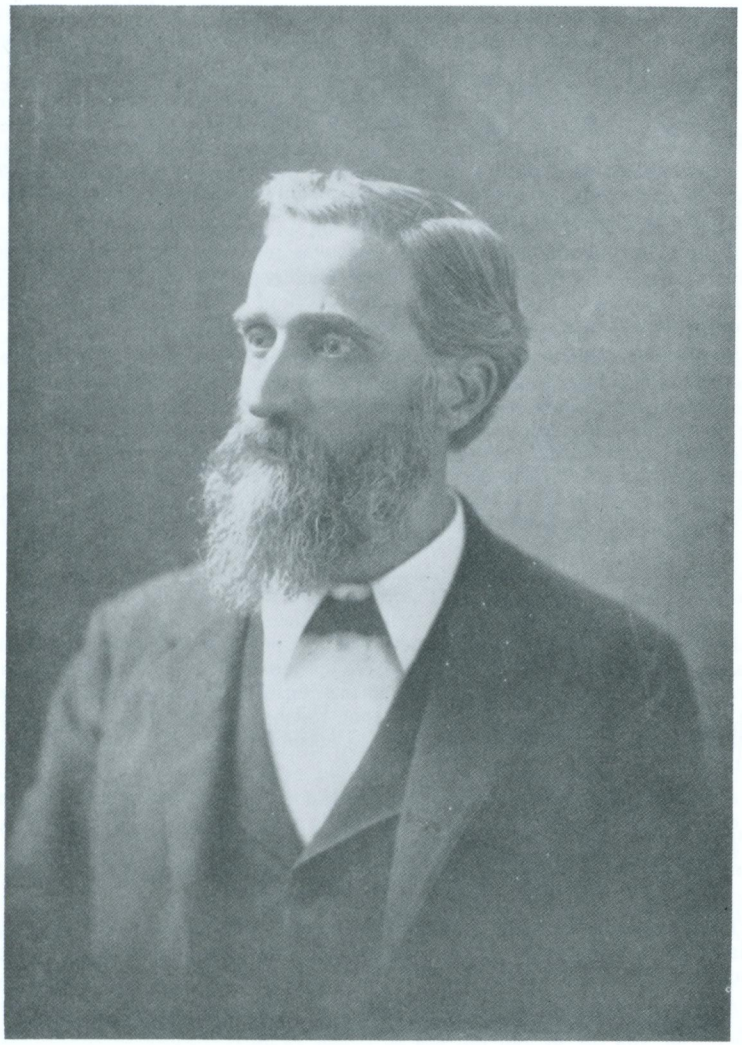
The first name of the present Stanley Gap, a few miles to the east of the William Allen place, was Allen Gap, a break in the Blue Ridge, that commemorated the Allen family.

Another William Allen lived in Boardtown. He was related to the William Allen of Cherry Log district. He was the father of Mrs. Nora Ward of Boardtown.

George Allen, another early arrival, settled in the Pleasant Hill community.

James Allen, still another early settler, migrated here from Rabun county and settled on Clear Creek, approximately where W. C. Allen, his oldest son, lived later. Except where James Allen settled, there had not been any Cherokees. But an Indian named Hagg had lived on the same place and had cleared a small field. Mr. Allen was what was called in those days a wheelwright, and was the best of his trade. "In this age of progress," says Quillian, "we no longer hear of this occupation."

"In fact," he continues, according to a record made June 26, 1884, "in many localities it would be difficult to find an old-fashioned spinning wheel.



JUDGE J. C. ALLEN

For long years a familiar and popular official and citizen. Ordinary for fifty years. His knowledge of the County and its citizens, during the active phase of his career, was very extensive.

And there are only a few now living who remember the time when they were all given the chance to spin the thread that clothed the family—but such is the fact.

"The writer has a feeling recollection that in his boyhood his task was to spin a yard a day. Often the hum of the wheel could be heard before day, so that more of the day could be enjoyed as a recess. Truly those were happy days, and old people love to think of them. Few things were more homey and cheery than to hear two or three wheels humming their music and the spinners mingling with the sound some of those lively old songs that have gone out of use and been displaced by others which, in many instances, are not near so good. But this is an age of progress and all must fall into line. But I can't help loving the music of the old spinning wheel."

Mr. Allen was able not alone to build wheels, but he was a competent workman with wood generally, useful to the common weal in his neighborhood, and fortunate in his family. His daughters were praised by the pioneers, and were said to have made excellent wives. The oldest married Israel Teem in Rabun County shortly before the couple removed to Gilmer and settled on land adjoining James Allen's.

Mrs. Allen stood in high favor in her community also. She and Mr. Allen were parents of still other daughters who married among their pioneer neighbors. Soon after the Allens settled in Clear Creek community, other settlers trickled in by the slow-moving heavy, ox and horse drawn wains of the day.

James Allen was greatly missed when his death, just prior to the Civil War, occurred. He was a Democrat, and had long been a member of the Baptist church. His family was of considerable size.

Quoting Quillian directly, we learn that "his oldest son, W. C. Allen, still lives near where his father first settled. He owns the old homestead. W. C. Allen is, himself, steady, upright, a reliable man.

"He has always made a good living and enjoyed the confidence and respect of his neighbors. He is now an old man, having spent some 45 years on the same farm. (He arrived there about 1839). His brother Maxwell, I believe, died during the Civil War. His youngest brother, Ebe by name, still lives in the same neighborhood."

The familiar name of W. C. Allen was "Billy." He was the father of Judge J. C. Allen, widely known to later generations. Judge Allen lived until fairly recent years. His father died Oct. 31, 1919.

Judge Allen first made a copy of the most reliable map of the County (based on engineering of B. W. Frobel dated 1869). This map shows original land lots and their numbers throughout the County. He generously permitted the use of this research, first made known by him and available to all. It forms the basis of our best survey to the present day. The Georgia Power added detail. Other citizens checked it and contributed to its further improvement. The services of a private mapmaker, E. A. Stanaland, to whom I gave detail and general co-operation, added improvement. Stanaland, backed by persons whose names appear on the front of the map, finished and published the first large detail map so far completed. He based his efforts on all sources of information up to 1931.

Judge J. C. Allen had a keen recollection, finely balanced mental quality, and trustworthiness. He was of substantial help in compiling this record. Agreeable, refined, he was a most willing and ready consultant.

Other Allens I cannot be too sure of but I give the best data I can find. Among these would be W. A., Dec. 20, 1849 to May 6, 1925; Miss Vesta Allen, married Frank E. Waters, born Feb. 27, 1875, died Feb. 13, 1896. She was a daughter of J. C. Allen.

Mrs. Kate Perry Allen, wife of Judge J. C. Allen, born Aug. 3, 1857, died May 30, 1927.

Western Allen (his initials were W. C. and he was not the only Allen to have these initials) married Victoria Chastain. He was a cousin to Judge Allen. Born Jan. 14, 1861, he died the 31st of Oct. 1919. Mrs. Victoria Chastain Allen (evidently the wife of W. C.) was born Aug. 4, 1870; and died Sept. 16, 1905.

CHARLES ROSCOE ALLEN

Master of English and an artist in its use. As a student at Mercer University, he became editor-in-chief of the student literary magazine of his time, the Mercerian, there. He was diplomatic, quietly energetic, trustworthy, and ambitious. A very able teacher, he took his first training in that field in Gilmer County.

Allen, Charles Roscoe

Another member of the Allen family, nephew to Judge J. C. Allen, is Charles Roscoe Allen. He merits marked attention.

Born Jan. 26, 1881, in Ball Ground district, he was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brown Allen. On his way to Chicago University, he contracted an acute illness and died July 14, 1911, in Chicago. He was attending the university to secure a master's degree in English. He was buried at LaGrange, Ga. He thus died at the age of 30.

Young Roscoe entered school at Clear Creek, a community called Dyke, near his birthplace. While in his little home school, in the late 1880s, he received instruction from J. G. Cole, who was assisting Fletcher Holden in teaching in the school. Mr. Cole encouraged him to bring his books on to the school house instead of hiding them as some of the school fellows were doing.

He is said to have continued to attend these little short-term schools till he reached age 10. He later attended Oakland one term. He also was enrolled at Ellijay in 1902 while C. L. Gunnells was principal. Mrs. W. H. Gudger, who was likewise in attendance upon the Ellijay school that year, recalls his presence there and recalls that he lived, meanwhile, in the home of Judge J. C. Allen.

Roscoe Allen was much interested in teaching and at the age of 17 had taken his first examination to do so. This was 1898. He taught his first school at Ebenezer at a salary of $18 a month. He also taught a term at Dial in Fannin county.

In 1902 he taught a while in Tails Creek district and boarded with P. G. Hyatt. While in the Hyatt home is said to have taught himself Greek in preparation to enter Mercer University the autumn of that year.

While a student at Mercer, he dropped out a year, which he spent teaching at Jesup. This appears to have been the school year 1905-1906. For, with the tenacity of genius, he was back at Mercer in the fall of 1906.

There his marked ability was recognized. He became editor-in-chief of the Mercerian, a magazine published for the literary expression of the students, including himself. He continued in this capacity until his graduation in June 1907. The year after that, he taught as principal at Hearn academy, Cave Springs, two years.

He then advanced to the chair of English at Southern Female College at LaGrange. He remained in this capacity during the rest of his teaching career that ended with the spring of 1911.

Meantime he was pursuing advanced English courses at the University of Chicago. This ended abruptly with the tragic termination of his illness the summer following.

His wife, whom he married in 1909, survived him. She was of a high order of intelligence and reportedly a graduate of Shorter college, Rome, Georgia.

Anderson

Henry M. Anderson, the quiet, justly disposed citizen of Ellijay, remembered by many living persons, was born June 10, 1848, and died June 20, 1925. His wife was a sister of Jeff Cole, and she was born Feb. 22, 1854, and died Nov. 5, 1935.

Descendants of this couple are Jesse Walter, now also deceased, who was a captain in World War I. Daughters, Miss Lula, and Mesdames Lena Miller and Dora Sweeney.

Joseph and Ensley Anderson came from Lumpkin county soon after Gilmer was organized. They were orphan boys "left to carve out their fortunes" without the aid of a father's counsel or a mother's care. But they were determined characters, forging obstinately toward the goal of success. Their efforts were well rewarded.

The two men married sisters, daughters of Jediah Blackwell of Lumpkin county. Their choice of wives was said to have been happy and fortunate. Joseph seemed more bent upon the making of money. Ensley seemed satisfied with a more modest competence. Joseph, several years prior to the Civil War, lost his wife. A year later he married Miss Millicent Ayers, said to have been of a most amiable disposition. The rest of his life, in the new marital status, seems to have been happy.

While still in the strength of his years, Joseph Anderson fell seriously ill. He sent for Bethel B. Quillian to come to his home and write a will for him. Mr. Quillian, upon approaching his bedside, saw that he could live but little longer. Some neighbors who were present vacated the room. Mr. Anderson stated his wishes, while his weeping wife remained at his side. Quillian sat by the bed writing down faithfully the words of the weakening man. When the writer had finished, he read back what he had written. "That is as I wish," the sick man said. Next day Anderson died.

Descendants of his remained in Gilmer. Some years after his death his widow married William Clayton, with whom she lived harmoniously for the subsequent years of her life.

Ensley Anderson, on the place where he first settled, lived to an advanced age. He made a good living with something to spare. An all round citizen in merit, he had the confidence and respect of neighbors. He and his good wife were both members of the Baptist church at Ebenezer.

Both these brothers were Democrats, but dabbled little in politics. They followed the wise rule of voting for the best man.

Bailey

This name has been familiar throughout our history, but members of the Bailey family have never been very numerous.

The first Bailey of whom we hear was Augustus, from North Carolina. He bought a farm adjoining Milton Davis, another pioneer. Mr. Bailey lived here several years. Then, becoming involved financially, he was obliged to sell his place. He then bought a smaller farm farther up a creek at a place known, many years later, as the home of Elisha Stover. In the course of a few years both Mr. and Mrs. Bailey were dead.

They left a number of children, however, and most of these continued to live in that section. The wife of Richard Rackley was the daughter of Augustus Bailey. She was what the upland people used to call "clever", meaning hospitable. Contemporaries declared it would have been difficult for her to be anything but generous and live with Mr. Rackley, known among neighbors as extremely open and generous of heart. Mr. Rackley lived about 40 years in his community, and had few if any enemies. He died in 1901.

Banks

William Banks came from Hall county. Pioneer, he bought the lot once owned and occupied by J. P. Cobb, in Ellijay. Some 70 years ago he added a front to a building already used here as a store. He opened a grocery line and

continued for several years in this business. He then added dry goods to his sales stock.

Mr. Banks was described as energetic and industrious. He finally sold his property and moved out in the county. The last heard of him he was more than 80, but still possessed some of the fire and hardihood of former days. He still labored with his hands to make an honest living. Politically a Whig, he belonged to no church.

Miss Samantha Banks was one of our early woman teachers.

We recall Rev. Burt Banks, who resided in the western part of Gilmer, and left a number of descendants. Among present day citizens is J. G. who lives in the New Hope community.

Listed in our phone book are Clinton, Hershel and J. R. Banks. The name is also listed with the names of Gilmer doctors.

Barclay

J. E. Barclay, known as Ed, was widely known in Ellijay and Gilmer County. He worked long and faithfully at lumber plants and was able to direct much of such work. A native of Kentucky, he came to Gilmer in early childhood.

He settled first on the west side of the County. Later, for many years, he resided at Ellijay.

His sisters have been listed as Mesdames Ollie Sellers, Maude Jones, Eunice Quintrell, Pearl McCay; and a brother, Peter. Ed was married in 1898.

The long period of his active life and work at Ellijay included work with the Evans, Shippen, L. L. Daugherty Lumber companies.

Among his descendants are children, Mrs. Roy Cobb, Mrs. Hugh Boling; and sons, Rollo, Thurlow, Frank and James.

He died June 21, 1941.

Barnes

The Barnes family was established in Gilmer County as early as 1842. Members have usually lived in Leaches district. J. M. of Pickens was related. Isaac Barnes (died January 20, 1941) and his wife, who survived him, have descendants, Mrs. Jane Herrington, J. W., J. C., Nathaniel, Buford, Henry.

Edward, farmer and merchant, died June 22, 1928.

John Barnes died Feb. 1, 1946. His father was Brensley Barnes. Two sisters are Mrs. P. R. McKinnish and Mrs. Sarah Butler; brothers, M. M., B. L., L. M. and A. B. Barnes, all of the County.

Bates

Members of this family, like those of Kincaid blood, bear a striking resemblance to each other, even when but distantly related. A long time ago Mat Bates lived opposite the present home of Luke Whitaker and across Boardtown creek from Mr. Whitaker.

If we recall correctly, John Sluder's first wife was a Miss Bates.

Avery Bates, whose tragic end and the circumstances connected therewith were a sensation of 1887, lived in Boardtown. His wife was the daughter of

Mont Sharp, an old-time teacher during the lean years following the Civil War. Several descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Bates have been citizens of our County. Two sons, Oscar and Barney, have died within our bounds within recent years.

Bearden

Descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Clark (W. C.) Bearden (later Mrs. M. V. Teem) were James, Joseph (both of whom became doctors), Annie.

Dr. James M. (born December 13, 1855) died October 7, 1909. Annie was born September 3, 1858, and died October 10, 1893.

Williby Bearden, born about 1808, was an early settler. He first lived about 13 miles east of Ellijay, where he remained until after the War Between the States. He then sold his property and moved back into a portion of the County where he had lived previously.

Prior to 1880 he lost his wife, known as a good neighbor and a faithful wife and mother. Her hospitality toward visitors in her home was widely known. She was a Baptist, faithful in her attendance upon the services of her church.

Williby Bearden, Democratic in politics, never joined any church. He had an older brother named Jacob, who bought and settled a farm adjoining Williby's but farther down the stream on which the places were located. Both men came from Hall County.

Jacob, who in his old age, was often referred to as "uncle," was a man of industry and thrift. He raised a large family, many of whose members have continued in the county until the present time. Both he and his wife were devoted in their church life and were members of Ebenezer Baptist church.

Bell

Notable in the early life of Gilmer County was Hiram P. Bell, born in Jefferson county Jan. 19, 1827. He attended School at Cumming. He married about the time of his Ellijay residence. He was a charter member of the Ellijay Masonic lodge, organized in 1849.

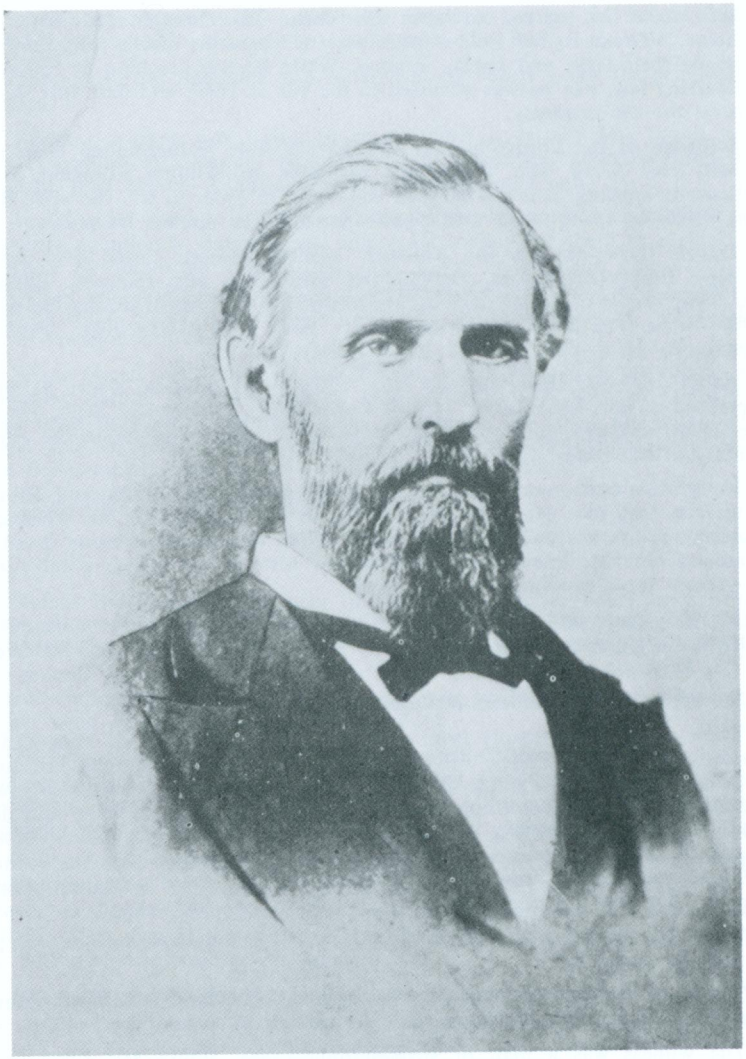
In Mr. Bell's later reminiscences, as revealed in his book, "Men and Things," he practically bypasses his very human experience as a pedagogue at Ellijay. He seems to have taught but two years—probably 1848 and '49. His instructional work was done in the old Gilmer academy on Cemetery hill.

Most of his charges were the smaller contingent of youth who could be more easily spared from home while their larger brothers and sisters stayed at home to work at the multitudinous tasks of the youth of their day. Mr. Bell came to school wearing a tall beaver hat.

One day his students, during a temporary absence of the master (it may have been one morning when he arrived at school), led by the larger boys, conspired against him and wrote out a number of demands upon him. Perhaps they merely wanted "treats." Anyway, they barricaded the schoolhouse door.

Mr. Bell, from the outside, demanded to know who fastened that door, his anger rising with his voice. Billy Jones (son of Sam) flatly declined to handle such a "hot" door key. It looked like no one wished the master to find him in possession of that key, a discovery that might lead to suspicion of the holder and a whipping for him.

Mr. Bell became increasingly insistent that those inside open the door. The boys went into another hurried huddle, whispering their words. William Ellington



HIRAM P. BELL

Sturdy early citizen. He taught in the old Gilmer Academy a few years after the Indians were removed. He impressed conscientiousness and thoroughness upon his young charges.

Couresty of Judge Clarence Bell of Atlanta.

II, then about 11, agreed to open the door. This brought the boys their "medicine." Hiram P. Bell had a sturdiness of character and a level of ideals that made their large and lasting impress. While he was teaching at Ellijay, he was studying law. For he was admitted to the bar in 1849, and that year he also taught at the old academy.

Someone of the Ellingtons may still have a little leather-bound Bible, that originally cost $2.50, and which Bell presented to William Ellington II for excellence in spelling. It is still in good condition. In order to win the prize Bible, young Ellington made more than double the required number of points.

During those days in the Academy spelling contests lasted over several successive Friday afternoons. Defining of words was also required. Ellington stood "head" most of the afternoons. He missed but two words during the period of the contest. The Bible is inscribed in Mr. Bell's neat handwriting: "Premium diligentia. By H. P. Bell, Aug. 10, 1849, Ellijay, Ga."

About 1849 Mr. Bell removed from Ellijay to Cumming, where he began the practice of law. Mrs. Carter Tate of Jasper was a daughter of Bell's. He also reared other children, some of whom have become distinguished in the life of Atlanta and the state.

He wrote a book, made up largely of recollections, called "Men and Things." But we must say that Mr. Bell does not tell us therein much of his wholesome philosophy of life nor does he reveal many of the intensely interesting details of life around him. He knew much of our early history, but failed to talk about that—except for a few humorous incidents.

Mr. Bell spent most of his life at Cumming. While living there, he served his district in Congress, and it appears ably and honorably. He died in Atlanta Aug. 17, 1907.

We append a few incidents recorded in his book.

These are gleaned mainly from early court life. One of these happened on a Tuesday morning at Ellijay. Just as Mr. Bell entered the courtroom the judge was calling the case of George Ellis Vs William Cole. Ellis wore a sorrowful expression during the proceedings. From his testimony it appeared he had done a certain amount of ditching, for which Cole was to deliver to him a cow, a calf and a rifle. A dispute arose after the delivery of the gun. Action was brought by Ellis to recover the cow and her increase. Finally, upon being asked what became of the cow and calf in litigation, Mr. Ellis gave the answer:

"They tell me the cow is dead, and the calf that was born superior to that time is in the same fix."

The State once had a witness in the case of the State Vs Richard Ratliff, charged, in Gilmer Superior Court, with the offense of assault and battery.

The witness was a man of striking appearance. While Mr. Ellis, above mentioned wore the home-made garments and shoes of those days (buttons were worked out of thread, often) and was coatless, the present witness was slightly above medium height, a little rotund, yet of shapely figure with a rather springy, dignified movement.

His nose was the red center of a decidedly florid complexion. He wore a Prince Albert coat, a beaver hat, standing collar supported by a rather wide black stock. He could coin words but did not always know their meaning, a fact that never seemed to worry him in the least.

The trouble out of which the indictment grew arose at a "road working." In those days a road working without at least one fist fight was indeed a tame

affair. Straightening himself, upon being urged to go on and state what next occurred, the witness adjusted his stock and standing collar and said:

"Previous after that time as I follered along before I saw the priminaries of the case."

Another witness was trying to recall when a certain Mr. Smith entered upon possession of a certain lot of land and brightened upon recalling that it was "the time March Addington wintered John Butt's bull."

In the rural districts of Gilmer County some of the more intelligent people paid little attention to dates. It was important merely for them to regulate their calendars by important events that thus came under their observation. The question of time arises in some form in the trial of every case. Came a case of the State Vs Hugh Porter, for malicious mischief, accused of killing Shade Green's cow in Porter's corn field.

Shade Green was a man of some humor, which, though in the rough, would sometimes sparkle. He was an honest man and a truthful witness. The cow was found dead in Porter's cornfield. The damage to the corn, the habits of the animal and the height of the fence were all under investigation. John Echols, upon being asked when the cow was found dead, replied:

"Somewher's about tater diggin' time."

Berry

Robert Berry, another member of the ancient inferior court, once lived on the Federal road at a point which was later included in the county of Pickens, where the late James Morrison lived. Mr. Berry married an Indian woman. He sold general merchandise and whiskey at the old home location, and was said to have consumed pretty liberally of the liquor on his own part. This appears to have been at old Love's, now Talking Rock.

He was finally killed by an Indian named Crittendon, who stabbed him. Both were drinking at the time. The historian knew nothing of Mr. Berry's antecedents, but said he was considered to be of ordinary common sense and hospitality when sober. He was described as being, when drinking, quite violent.

A pioneer of the County was Marcellus Berry, who lived in Boardtown. He was the father of Tom Berry, who long lived in the same section but later removed to Copper Hill, Tenn. A Miss Berry, daughter of Marcellus, married William Allen, also of that district. Tom Berry was once a merchant at Cherry Log, where he also lived several years.

Jim Berry, section foreman, long lived in Cherry Log district.

Bishop

With the death of Mrs. Bettie (Bishop) Brown, March 1, 1958, few, if any survivors of this once prominent and influential family are left in Gilmer.

The first member of the family to enter Gilmer was Alfred; born Jan. 9, 1832, he died Sept. 27, 1890. Mr. Bishop came from North Carolina, first settling on the Jonathon Withrow place in Mountaintown district. He moved from there to the place, known until recently as the Brown place, on the Chatsworth road about half a mile out of the bounds of Ellijay.

He lived at this place five years. While he was living here, he taught school at Flat Branch, walking back and forth daily. By the light of burning brush, he could sometimes be seen after night working on his land.

He then moved to Ellijay and went into business, about 1879, at the Ellijay drug company location. He had a partner named Cooper. This venture failed. He went into business again at the present Ellijay Hardware and Furniture site. He is said to have erected the building now (1960) standing on this corner. The brick that went into the building were made from clay excavated from the Brown estate. This was the first brick business house erected in Ellijay. At length he sold this place and moved to the present Dink Waters store site on Dalton street. Mr. Bishop was established here when he died at the age of 59. His son Fate Bishop took over his business.

Alfred Bishop was a Methodist, and was helpful in building several churches. At one time he was county treasurer. At the time of his death he was reportedly Gilmer's largest taxpayer. J. R. (Robb) Bishop, a son, was named for Dr. R. H. Robb. He was born Sept. 14, 1879, and died April 14, 1902.

John W., June 15, 1865 to Oct. 28, 1904; Wash; Dr. Alfred; Fate (also became a doctor); he moved to Dalton and lost a fortune. He then went to Richmond. He served in the medical corps of World War I. His last work was as a night watchman. Other sons were Ed and Lark.

Daughters, besides Mrs. Ed Brown, who furnished data on her family, were Dossie (who married a Mr. Slate); Missouri (who married a Mr. Foote); and Mahaley.

Frank Waters clerked for A. Bishop till Mr. Bishop's death; then seven more years for Fate Bishop. Then he bought the place out. And now, for several years, his sons, Dink and James, have succeeded him, conducting a store on the old Bishop location.

Mrs. Ed Brown furnished the data on this family.

Blackwell

A. K. came to Ellijay in 1834. He was a merchant here until the fall of 1835, occupying a lot which appears to have adjoined the modern Waters store. Unmarried, he made his home with his mother and a sister. He left Ellijay, removing to Murray county.

Later still, he removed to Jasper, Pickens county. After he left Ellijay, he was admitted to the bar. He died about 1874 at an advanced age. A Whig in politics, he had no church connection.

Brannon

Col. James Brannon came to Gilmer about the time of Indian removal and established a store, placing Hawkins F. Price in charge, as mentioned under the Price family. He later went to Cassville.

Bramlett

John Wesley Bramlett, pioneer teacher and official, was born in London, England, in 1795. He and a brother migrated to America together. He came to Gilmer before the County's organization in 1833. He became commissioner of roads of the County Sept. 13, 1838, succeeding William Reed, who probably died at, or near that time.

He and Bethel B. Quillian seem to have joined the Methodist church at the same time. At the opening of the Civil War he was one of the few Gilmer men who still owned slaves. His work as the first teacher of Ellijay is recorded elsewhere.

On the third Sunday in June 1888 B. B. Quillian is recorded to have delivered at Ellijay an address memorializing John W. Bramlett I. His text was the last two stanzas of Psalm 91. It was then stated that Mr. Bramlett had died "several months prior at the age of 93." But Lewis Bramlett, J. W.'s grandson and still living (1960) in Ellijay recalls that he was 94 at the time of his death.

He was buried in a small family burial plot a mile south of Ellijay and back of the Davenport Hosiery mills. The plot that contains his grave, now on the mill premises, is enclosed by a neat wire fence. His wife, whose maiden name was Griffith, is also buried here.

Descendents

Direct issue of John W. Bramlett and wife were Cicero Taylor, Hines Melton, John W. Jr., Murphy, Henry, Lewis; and daughters, Tildy, Sukey (Mrs. Jesse Charles), Margaret (married name, Carpenter).

Descendants of Cicero Taylor are Mrs. Becky Logan, Mrs. Mollie Bowden, C. W., Lewis M., Joseph C.; the last names, of Arkansas. Lewis M. Bramlett, now 85, descended from Cicero T. Bramlett.

Descendants of Mrs. Rebecca (Becky) Logan are among our best known citizens and include Cicero, Mary (Mrs. Griggs), Johnnie, Jim, Lottie, also a Mrs. Griggs; Lewis, Martha (Nelson), Rosie (Harris), Lillie (Buffington), and Horace, deceased.

The local court judge of Ellijay, W. L. Bramlett (given name Lewis) is still active in the duties of his office. His surviving children consist of Paul and Minnie (Mrs. Davenport), both of Ellijay; and Mrs. Annie Johnson of Cleveland, Tenn.

Other relatives of the Bramlett family would include Judge C. W. Bramlett, once located at Ellijay, later for a long time, a resident of Lindale. Milton Bramlett served, for quite a time, the Copperhill community as justice of the peace.

Descendants of those listed would of course belong to a complete roll of the family.

Briant

While more than one family of Briants (or Bryants) have lived in Gilmer, ample data on the different families and their inter-relations are lacking—except for Christopher M.

He was born of Protestant Irish parentage Feb. 4, 1833, in Buncombe county, North Carolina. The days of his early childhood, however, were spent three miles south of Blue Ridge, now Fannin county, Ga. His early home was a little pioneer log cabin. His parents were uneducated.

He attended such poor and grossly inadequate little schools as his neighborhood offered. Though an apt and eager pupil, this was the sum of his early training. His ambition to know was aroused, however. In his educational endeavors and thirst to improve himself, he got slight encouragement even from relatives.

In the year 1850 (he was 17) he taught his first school at Mobile, a school then in his home county of Gilmer, five miles south of Copper Hill, Tennessee. When he was 21 he was almost a midget, weighing but 83 pounds.

Some old timer suggested he chew tobacco, and he took up that form of its use as a possible means of promoting his physical development. Something helped. He kept up the habit.

His Big Moment

At about 23 he came in contact with Landrine J. Tatum. His own daughter, Miss Lizzie Briant, thought his years under the tutelage of Mr. Tatum were 1857 to 1860. But records show it was a year earlier than her reckoning. Tatum had graduated at Mercer University and come to Buckhorn school house, in northern Gilmer to teach. This was but a few miles from the early home of young Chris, as he was usually called.

This school, when Tatum taught there, seems to have had a well supplemented term for it is said to have operated 10 months in the year. After attending the school under him for two terms, Mr. Briant himself taught there.

Speaking of the turn of fate Tatum had brought to the old hilltop, M. C. Briant used to say, after a lapse of nearly 50 years, to his pupils on the same spot, "Before I met Landrine Tatum I felt flattered because a few relatives and neighbors praised my zest for learning. And I had begun to teach round.

"But when Tatum got up before our first class and began demonstrating in higher mathematics, I was overwhelmed with my own ignorance and shortcomings. Then swift upon that I began to brace myself for the challenge and opportunities offered me. Now I knew at least where I was and where I should be. Tatum was the greatest teacher that ever came on that hill, and a portion of his life and influence remains."

At the beginning of the War between the States, M. C. Briant made another momentous decision on Buckhorn Hill. He listened to a speaker urge hearers to volunteer for army service "to help South Carolina resolve her difficulties with the North." He and others thereupon joined the Southern army. Briant became a captain and remained in the army till the close of the war.

Roughing it seemed to agree with his health, in a way; though he used to say the spewing of fire, the dun of smoke and the roar of cannon on a night field of battle were blood-curdling indeed. Physically, instead of breaking down, he built up, becoming large, tall and robust, increasing weight without fat till he weighed in at about 175, and in height was well proportioned. He used to speak pridefully of his officer's dress uniform and the colorful sash that went with it.

After the war, he began teaching at Cleveland, Georgia, where he remained two years. Thence he went to Blairsville and continued three more years in the same work. He was devoted to instructing and inspiring youth. His students can recall hearing him say often that he loved to teach.

In the year 1871 he came to Morganton, once partly in his home county, to head the public schools there. For a period of five years he gave his best to an outstanding work. Perhaps the greatest of his life. In this task as elsewhere he undertook too heavy a schedule.

For in those days a teacher was expected to do at least four times the work he should attempt. Mrs. Bud Chastain, one of his students of those days, said he had—for at least a part of the time—but two assistants. The volume of his work warranted 10 or 12. Mrs. O. F. Chastain, attaining this name because of her marriage to Oscar Chastain, a brother to Congressman Elijah W. Chastain, was a student of Briant's at Morganton. She afterward became a teacher of distinction. The sensational death of Congressman Chastain occurred within the same period of time.

The tremendous pressure of overwork began to tell on Mr. Briant. In 1876 he left Morganton, moving to Boardtown, upper Gilmer County, where he settled upon the old home place of Ebenezer Fain, his father-in-law. This established

A

MURPHY CHRISTOPHER BRIANT

A, as he appeared in the uniform of a Confederate Captain, and B, as he appeared in much later civilian life. He taught more than 50 years in the public schools.

B

him back at the ancient and loved spot where he had gone to school to L. J. Tatum and had succeeded Mr. Tatum as teacher. Here he hoped to farm some, assume less responsibility,

". . . . . and husband out life's taper at the close

And keep the flame from wasting by repose,"

if we may quote Goldsmith, whom he loved.

Here and there he began to instruct in a smaller capacity and under much reduced pressure. He taught two years at Ellijay. During a part of the succeeding years he taught at a schoolhouse that stood near the present (1960) home of Horace Allen, on the hill just north of the Levi (or Lee) Plemmons farm. This house was later blown away by a cyclone.

During the 1890s he taught also at Rock Creek and, about 1897, in the old original log school house that was abandoned for school use in 1905 and mouldered away back of Cherry Log meeting house. Part of the time he was at East Ellijay. From there, in 1899, he went back to his old love—teaching at Buckhorn of youthful associations. He left there at the close of his school year in 1904, to teach no more.

He died either Friday, May 24, or Saturday, May 25, 1906, at his old home in Boardtown at the age of 73. He was buried at Buckhorn Sunday, May 26, of that year.

During the last few active years of his life, I studied under Mr. Briant. I can testify to his sympathy and human quality. I can certify to his thoroughness in English, mathematics and other branches of study. His fine comradeship was never-failing.

It was in those days that his eyesight began to fail. After that, as he told me in a voice tinctured with sorrow, he could no longer pursue his old and intense love of reading. All the letters of all the words ran together and blurred hopelessly, he said.

When he came home from the last day of his farewell school, he sensed the end of the trail. But his saving sense of humor saved the situation. His dog bayed at him from under his house. As he came nearer, he riotously rattled his tin lunch bucket at the dog.

The Murphy Christopher Briant I knew was a tall straight man of ample flesh, but not fat or paunchy. He wore a slightly long fluffy beard that gradually changed from a very dark to entirely white, as his pictures reveal. He used to say a good set of whiskers hid a multitude of ugliness. He had large blue eyes set in a somewhat massive, masculine face. He was rather fair of skin. When I came to know him well, he was already bald except for a fringe of long hair that curled somewhat into ringlets at the bottom, hanging below his hat brim. He liked white shirts and trousers with small stripes of "salt and pepper" pattern.

He had a voice that was somewhat tenor of tone, not the heavy bass his size and physical presence would lead a stranger to expect. He laughed heartily with well separated yaw yaws that were deep, infectious, often ending in an agreeable sort of nasal half-yodle.

He loved his students and liked to have them go home with him and spend the night. I went one night and was his bedfellow. After an old army custom, he rolled himself into the cover till it was a cocoon around him. It was winter and, so, I was forced to tug desperately for my share, which I finally got, at least partially, under.

Mr. Briant kept a close watch on his students and did not like for them to come in tardily from playtime. He would sometimes lean out a window and

admonish lagging boys "like a cow's tail, boys; always behind." He warned us to be stingy with our time and to keep our eyes peeled for treachery.

But through every trial he kept his humor and philosophy. To illustrate a point, he might relate to students the fable of the two frogs that fell into a crock partly filled with milk ready to churn. One frog gave up the struggle, sank to the bottom and drowned, whiled the other, by persistent kicking produced a ball of butter onto which he was able to climb and jump out. Still another lesson pointer was a brief fable of the duck that posed as a swan till he trod on a brier and involuntarily quacked.

Mr. Briant sometimes led in public prayers and at meals he mumbled a short grace. He was a member of the Baptist church. He was very appreciative of good reading, maintaining the best library in his community. He loved for others to share his books, and admitted he had lent a lot of tomes he never got back. A profound thinker, he expressed himself ably in writing. His words and confidence much encouraged boys and girls. Altogether, it was an inspiration to be an intimate of his.

There was much of selflessness in his heart and career. He seemed to have fully as much concern for the success and happiness of one of his students as for himself. In his occasional speeches to his pupils he always sought to stir within them aspiration to count for something—to know something, to be something, as he would express it. In this he was "more skilled to raise the wretched than to rise." His mission was to be helpful.

His sons were Victor Hugo, Tobias, Clifford and Tom, all deceased. His only daughter, Elizabeth is also dead. Victor, Clifford and Tom left issue. Tobe and Miss Lizzie were never married.

It seems that Mr. Briant, during the early years of his teaching invested in mining stock. The investment finally proved wise and sound. I believe this stock passed on to surviving children, and, finally, to Tom, the last child to die. The report is that Tom's family benefited from this investment. Other descendants of Mr. Briant may have shared in these distributions, which included more than $40,000 realized from his investment in land in Boardtown.

So that Mr. Briant was a wise investor. But it took more than his lifetime to realize this much from his investments.

Brown

Alf Brown once lived on the next place south and west of the Luke Whitaker home in Boardtown. Mr. Brown was preceded there by Ike Edwards and Asbury James succeeded him in the occupation of this place. Mr. Brown, who was said to have been of the same age as John M. Ward, his neighbor farther down the Ellijay river, to a day, later moved to the only dwelling near Salem Baptist church. His last years were spent there. His son Jim lived in the old family home after his father's day.

The original Mr. Brown and a neighbor, Giles Bradford, used to be seen together riding along mountain roads—frequently astride the same horse. As both were esquires, they came in for some chaffing from facetious neighbors: "More squires and less jestice than anywhir."

And Giles sometimes, in spite of his church membership, sometitmes looked once too often at the flowing jug. His more austere brethren would arraign him before their body. "Brethren," he is said to have answered. "I drunk too much, but I kept the faith!"

Burch

Pioneer Jack Burch lived where Wiley Plemmons lived until modern times, in Boardtown district. He and his wife were a childless couple, and they took James S. Smith to raise. For that reason Mr. Smith was often called Burch. He was born in 1850 and inherited the Jack Burch estate. He attended school at Buckhorn to L. J. Tatum.

Henry Burch, brother to Jack, lived a little south, on land now occupied by Horace Allen.

Across Boardtown creek and in sight of Henry Burch, except when hidden by tall corn, was the home of "Aunt Ribbie" Burch. She had a son "Turkey," whom we can recall. Turkey was said to be allergic to wheat flour in any form or amount. If he escaped that, he liked his fiddle.

"Aunt Ribbie" was related to several of her neighbors, and was the wife of a man whose name was Patterson. Her later years were spent in widowhood.

Burnett

T. M. was a pioneer; he went to the house of representatives in 1833, being first in that office. He was also first clerk of the superior court. A native of Buncombe county, North Carolina, he came to Gilmer County in 1831 or 1832 and sold goods a short time where the Jesse Jarrett family lived till recently near the raliroad station.

He was said to have belonged to one of the best families in Buncombe county. Of a high order of intelligence and address, remarkably kind and obliging, he naturally made friends readily. Like many other people thrown among strangers, he at length let temptation change his ways and joined a family by no means his equal in either intelligence or social position. He finally settled in Alabama.

More than two generations ago he still had relatives still living back in his old native county; also a brother, a physician, in southwest Georgia, who represented his people in the Georgia Legislature.

During the first few years of this century a family of this name lived in upper Boardtown, occupying a place formerly the home of Buffin Patterson. Members of this household established a post office named Burnett there. A young matron of the household was a photographer. After a few years they removed to Copper Hill.

We have several persons of the name living in the County now. Herbert, who lives on Jasper road, operates a garage there. M. C. lives on Yukon road; and Robert operates a service station on Jasper road.

Burns

Young Burns of Gwinnett county drew the land lot which embraces the larger portion of the Pierce Roberts farm, to which he moved from Habersham county. John T. Bailey, his brother-in-law, came with him, settling also on the Burns farm.

But they remained there but a few years. Burns sold the place to Samuel Jones and returned to Gwinnett. Burns is believed to have been the first bailiff of the Ellijay district. He was a very hospitable man.

Cannon

R. H., a pioneer, came from Rabun county. He was an old acquaintance and former friend of the Price family, and assisted Hawkins F. Price in the operation of the store Price managed. Cannon read law on the side, and soon after was admitted to the bar. He practiced law a while. B. B. Quillian thought he served in the legislature.

After Hawkins F. Price went to Cassville, Cannon also removed there. He married a Miss Burge and settled on a farm near Stilesboro. He served in the Legislature from Bartow. He was a member of the M. E. Church South.

Peter and Siles Cannon, brothers, from Rabun county, bought land in Tickanetley district from pioneer Augustus Bailey. They both married daughters of Milton Davis. Peter took the farm land on the north side of the river and Silas that on the south side. Silas, some years later, sold his portion and moved to Cherokee county. He was reported as still alive in 1881.

A steady, generous man, he nevertheless did not have the reputation for energy that his brother did. Peter, altogether, went at every task with telling force. Few Gilmer pioneers enjoyed the reputation for good citizenship all round that he had.

Though generally successful, he did not realize the fullness of opportunity that time can give. For he died in the prime of manhood and found a grave among strangers, far from wife, children and friends. Captured by the Federal army in Tennessee when he tried to recover the body of his brother-in-law, W. C. Bearden, who had died there.

He was taken to a Northern prison. Those who were near him there said that he died more from mental agony and heartbreak than from disease. Soon after news of his death reached his home community, his wife, Ann, sold all his stock and such other surplus stock as she could spare and moved to Cherokee county, where she invested her capital in a farm. After the war was over, she sold this place and purchased the adjoining farm, known as the Plemmons place.

Upon this tract she established her son-in-law, a man named Chastain, whom she encouraged to settle near her. Two generations ago her son Milton was still living at the old Cannon homestead in Cherokee. Mrs. Chastain and Milton were her only children. For them she husbanded her resources well, providing them homes. Mr. Cannon and his wife were both members of the Methodist church. He was a true friend of morality and religion, exerting upon his community the good influences shed upon his family by his wife at home.

Chapman

The Chapmans, from early pioneer days, lived mainly in Boardtown. Hense Chapman, one of the early members of this family, lived north of the Sissons, on the same watercourse. He lived by a fine spring which is now piped to the home of Berry Miller. Hense Chapman is said to have owned much of upper Boardtown.

Hense Patterson, a neighbor, is reported to have once incited Mr. Chapman to attack an offending Indian. Mrs. Jane Chapman of upper Boardtown at the opening of this century was the widow of Fields Chapman, father of Pink, Willis, John A., Erskine, and Avaline, the one girl.

The Chapmans were big, powerful men and showed no disposition to start trouble among neighbors. Once Fields, as he was passing a neighbor's reportedly declared, however, "If it wasn't I have along my little boy, I would tear down Levi Plemmons' chimney."

Hense (or Henson) Chapman came to Gilmer about the time the Pattersons arrived. From Hall county, he settled near John Patterson. At the time, he was a young man with a young family. We have mentioned his impressive physical strength. He, like his descendants, was pleasant among the early settlers; kind of heart, he forgot no friend. It was claimed by those who lived in his day that he could be found, at the midnight hour, willing to bestow a favor upon one in need.

This was a record he maintained, throughout life, too. He also had a reputation as a hunter, and was believed to have killed more deer than any man in the County. He was reported to have gone, on occasion, into the woods and killed enough deer to furnish venison for entire log rollings and other community "workings."

He knew every cove and ravine in miles of his house; and, when he was 80 years old, the sound of the hunter's horn and the yelping of the dogs would stir him to the chase. His first wife died about 1879, and he was later married again.

He was never a member of any church.

Charles

The pioneer member of the Charles family was Melchizedeck, commonly called, by contemporaries, "Chizzy," probably from South Carolina.* He made his home on Town Creek. Some years ago Bill Charles lived on the same place as that on which Chizzy settled.

Chizzy had a son named Jesse. Two other sons were James and William. Bud Charles, still remembered by many people about Ellijay, was a son of Ben Charles.

The great length of residence of the Charles family in the County is attested by the fact that James Charles, a youth of 16 or 17 years, was here on February 7, 1835, the "Cold Saturday." The boy was carrying the mail between Ellijay and Dahlonega. People felt anxious for him as temperatures kept falling till they reached the lowest point ever recorded in the history of the County. By comparison with other points with fully established public records we are convinced Gilmer had 30 or more degrees below zero. White missionaries working here referred to this as our "Lapland winter."

Many doubted the ability of James Charles to withstand the trip across Amicalola mountain. At that time few houses were scattered along the lonely trail. But young Charles, by a clever little piece of headwork, saved his life. Confronted by the horrible cold and urged on by his sense of getting through the mail safely, he nevertheless made his way across the mountains, treking westward on his return from Dahlonega. Finding himself benumbed and failing from the cold, he stopped at the home of Daniel Davis and borrowed two hound pups.

By carrying these in his bosom, he not only saved his life but created one of the stirring traditions of our early days with something in it of the rescue of Romulus and Remus. He reached Goodman's mill (of later years known as Stegall's) six miles east of Ellijay. There William Tucker assisted him from his horse. Tucker and his good wife Betsy did all for him that their generous natures inspired. He remained by their great roaring fire and partook of their steaming food and drink.

*More definitely, he is said to have been of Germanic origin. He was an M. E. minister and was a teacher.

Next morning James Charles rode into Ellijay with the mail and his two life preservers still in his bosom. Although thus grazed by death, in a few days the Charles youth had recovered much of his former energy and spirit.

This lad with the amazing hardihood finally left Gilmer County and settled in Tennessee. One place of his residence there was said to have been at Halfway House between Ducktown and Cleveland.

Data on the Charles family should, naturally, contain something of related families.

The wife of William I was Sallie Charles, born April 21, 1827; died Sept. 19, 1910. William I died while still a young man.

Polly Charles became the wife of Ben Burnett Dec. 5, 1909.

One James Charles was killed, in pioneer days, by Indians, being the only white person so to die. He was only 18 years old at his death, and is buried in Town Creek district.

Bud Charles lived in Ellijay a long time. We do not believe, judging from opinions of contemporaries, that all people of this name in the Ellijay community were related to the pioneer Charleses of Town Creek. But the living B. H. Charles of Ellijay believes that his family was related to the early comers of the name.

Ben. H. I died in Nov. 1958. He was a son of Fletcher Charles. He left children, Earl, Minnie, Joe, Pat, B. H. This family is charitable and friendly by nature, and co-operative and firm in friendship.

Chastain

E. W. Chastain was an eminent member of this pioneer family. He was often referred to as Colonel Chastain. He was born near Pickens, South Carolina, Sept. 25, 1813. He was the son of Benjamin Chastain, who moved with him to Habersham county, Georgia, in 1821. From there the family moved to Gilmer County, settling on the Toccoa river about 1835. One authority says he arrived on the river in 1834.

Early he began to show promise of the distinction he finally won. He had an elementary education only. In his study of law, however, he seems to have carried his studies to an advanced stage. He was admitted to the bar in 1849. He is said to have practiced law for a while in Blairsville, seat of Union county, about 16 miles northeast of the old Chastain home.

He made a sort of maiden speech at Ellijay July 4, 1835, at a barbecue. The whole County took part in the celebration. A stand had been erected in a beautiful grove near the spot upon which the old brick jail once stood. Seats for ladies having been provided, the women were assured they might occupy them without embarrassment, as good order would prevail. "Grocery" keepers, as saloon keepers were called in those days, closed their doors and promised that not one drop of liquor would be sold that day, which proved quiet and orderly. Near the speaker's stand tables had been set up for serving dinner.

Quite a crowd heard Mr. Chastain. At near 11 a.m. the throng drew around the stand for prayer by Rev. William Ellington. William Irwin read the farewell address of George Washington. B. B. Quillian read the American Declaration of Independence. Mr. Chastain concluded the program by stepping forward and delivering an oration "that would have done credit to an older, more experienced man." The address was afterward published in several newspapers, and highly complimented generally. Mr. Chastain, described as handsome as well as intelligent, was only 21 at the time. After the speaking, the people gathered around the outdoor tables and partook of a good barbecue, the first in the County.

ELIJAH WEBB CHASTAIN

In 1838 the Seminole Indian war broke out in Florida, and E. W. Chastain took part in that. Having formed a company, he was elected its captain. Later he became colonel of a regiment. He returned with the goodwill of his command and again settled on Toccoa river.

Soon after his return from Florida, he married a Miss Brazelton of Jackson county, who survived him many years, making her home at the old home place, now inundated by the waters of the Blue Ridge power dam.

Col. Chastain not only advanced in the practice of law but seemed to find politics suited to his personality and temper. Soon after the Seminole war, he was elected senator from Gilmer County. This position he filled from 1839 to 1849 (sometimes reckoned 1840 to 1850). As soon as he reached the senate, he began his political advance, taking a commanding position in debates. Soon his reputation was wide as the state.

In the congressional election of 1850, running as a Union Democrat, he defeated William H. Stiles. In 1852, opposed by Lewis Tumlin, he won again. He served in the 32nd and 33rd Congresses, March 4, 1851, to March 3, 1855. But he was never again a candidate for congress.

When Chastain entered congress, he was one of the youngest men of the body. He was looked upon, by associates, as a young man of marked ability and promise. While representative, he made several speeches recalled as reflecting credit upon both himself and his constituents.

Col. Chastain was a delegate to the Secession Convention held at Milledgeville in 1860. During 1860 and 1861 he was State's attorney for the Western and Atlantic railroad. During the war between the states he served in the Confederate army as lieutenant colonel of the First Georgia regiment; some say the Eighth, also.

After his return from his Civil war roles, Col. Chastain resumed the practice of law. His untimely death occurred April 9, 1874, while he was returning from a trip to Dalton on professional business for clients in Gilmer and Fannin counties. With no railroad closer, at that time, than Dalton, it was quite a difficult trip over there—yet often necessary. Travel, confined mostly to walking and horseback, was difficult enough even in the best of weather.

On this trip, Mr. Chastain was mounted on a small horse, known among mountain folk as a pony. Accompanied by John B. Dickey of Mineral Bluff and J. A. Jervis, he encountered heavy rains in ascending the Cohutta mountain on the west side. Over and over, the stream crosses the road. Since nowhere were there any bridges or any way around, he had to ford the stream and take chances on the terrific flood.

For all his brains, Col. Chastain, according to gossip of neighbors, was a bit fond of intoxicants; and, on this trip, report also has it, he had had a drink. But it is not believed the drink contributed to his death beyond, perhaps, causing him to be rather imprudent in entering the water.

There were ways one could enter these various fords with a greater degree of safety. Chastain's horse, as it waded into the water, headed the wrong way. Dickey, without following Col. Chastain, shouted a warning to him. Either Chastain, deafened by the raging water, did not hear his friend, or he ignored the warning. About the middle of the stream, the water dashing forcibly against him, the little horse (already all but bowled over) blundered on a rock.

Instantly Col. Chastain fell into the water and was dashed downstream. Pounded among boulders and continuous shoals and shot over cascades with terrific force, he was stunned and drowned. His body was recovered and taken to the old family burial plot at Morganton.

Such a born leader was he, a man who could sway the masses as he could, together with his impressive appearance, he once seemed destined to any advance in the power of the people to confer. But it seems that some of these very qualities that might have helped him hampered him and almost foundered him on the rocks (it is said among older neighbors) while he was at Washington. His amours were said to have been one of his shortcomings that seriously deterred him.

Whatever his human frailties, the author concedes the towering of his combined better qualities into a great inspiration.

Jonathon D. Chastain, a brother to E. W., came to Lumpkin county from Habersham. He then moved on into Gilmer in the fall of 1835.

At least one place where he lived in Gilmer was a homestead on the east side of the County, probably in Cartecay district, known two generations ago as the Mashburn place. Of him, B. B. Quillian relates, "It was my pleasure to have lived by Mr. Chastain. He excelled in kindness and other neighborly qualities. He found pleasure in helping and accommodating friends—even to denying himself. His wife was of like character. Weary travelers often found lodging overnight at his house."

Mr. Chastain, as described by Quillian, was of good natural intellect, upright in character, sober in habit. In early life he affiliated with the Baptist Church. He was granted a license to preach, and progressed in the exercise of his ministerial gifts.

He remained about 10 years where he first settled. He then sold the place to Isaac Johnson, from South Carolina. He then bought a farm owned and occupied by a Mr. Waddell in Tickanetley. Waddell married the third daughter of Chastain. He finally died here following a somewhat sudden illness that proved short. His wife survived him by some years.

The Chastain family was a large one. Many members remained as citizens of their native county. Rev. J. P. Chastain was their oldest son, and many persons now active can remember him. Many descendants of these hardy pioneers still live in the County.

Clark

Near the Kells, on the Boardtown road three miles north of Ellijay, lived Lewis Clark, who came here from Habersham county, arriving while the Indians were still here. He is believed to have lived on the south side of Kell Hill where a man named Dillingham lived during the late years of the past century.

After a few years, Mr. Clark, having got into financial straits, moved away—presumably to Alabama. He seems to have had no more dealings in Gilmer.

Clayton

Josiah Clayton, pioneer, came here from Hall county, settling in the Tickanetley neighborhood, where his son William lived for many years afterward. The pioneer Clayton was described by those who knew him as hospitable, honest and upright, and well liked by his neighbors. A Democrat, he took but slight interest in politics and elections as a rule. His main interest centered in his home and related affairs.

He and his wife raised a family of sons and daughters of excellent social quality. Most of them made their home in Gilmer after him. They were favorably reported for their punctuality in business and kindness of address.

E. M., a son, was several times a tax collector of the County. Elias M., born in 1822, and his wife were mentioned Jan. 28, 1897, as having recently died. The father and all the sons were members of the Baptist church, "and no family seems to have loved their church more."

Other Claytons known to the writer have been Manse, some years deceased, who was county surveyor for a number of years; A. H., his son, recently surveyor of the County; Steve, John W., Palmer, and others, all of whom seem to have descended from the original settlers of the name.

Clontz (or Clonts)

D. C. Clontz, who lives, as we write this, in the Warlick sub-division, is the only Clontz in our local telephone book. He is descended from the pioneer Samuel Clontz, of whom our early historian, B. B. Quillian, has left some record. Mr. Quillian says Samuel Clontz settled "between Ensley Anderson and a mountain," probably in Cartecay district. This was several years before the Indians left. He made his home there for several years, at least.

His wife, as described by Quillian, was highly esteemed among neighbors, both for her personal traits and her sturdy common sense. She died in the early days. The couple raised a number of children, some of whom spent their lives in Gilmer. Related families are with us still, also.

Samuel Clontz I was born Feb. 4, 1801. Sarah, his spouse, to whom he was married in 1822, was born Jan. 9, 1804, and died in 1868.

We list here some of the children of this esteemed couple. There was his eldest son M. A., who became an acceptable minister of the Baptist faith. He was born May 31, 1823. For a number of years, too, he seems to have adhered to the faith of the Methodists. For it is said of M. A. that he went to Florida about the time of the Civil War and there became a presiding elder of their church. After the death of his first wife and a second marriage, he reportedly went back to the Baptists.

Dock Clontz was a brother of M. A. He was a Baptist minister, also. He was said to have been capable in this phase of his activities. He made his home in Whitfield, but is said to have left numerous relatives in Gilmer. By the early 1880s Dock was becoming old, but he was sturdy for his age. Democratic in politics, he maintained church affiliation over a long period.

Other children of the same family were William P., Samuel A. II, Martin L., Peggy Jane, Benjamin P., G. Christian S. (who died in 1829), Sarah L., John M. (died in 1863), Mary L. A. (died in 1867), Miligan C., who is said to have lived till Sept. 12, 1947.

The second marriage of Samuel A. Clontz I was 1870, when he wed Anna Arminda Kincaid, whose maiden surname had been Bearden. Only one child was issue of this marriage, a son named Rufus.

D. C. Clontz states that he lacks family records going back to Indian days or beyond, and that he knows nothing about the pioneer Samuel Clontz. He states, however, that his father was John W. Clontz, and had brothers Mike and Sam living in Boardtown for several years after this century began. This J. W. Clontz's father was also named John W. A John Clontz is listed among our veterans of the Mexican War.

Mike moved to the Isabella section of the Tennessee Copper basin in Polk county, Tennessee. Sam removed to Gordon county. Both men raised families in their new homes. Jane, a spinster sister of Mike and Sam, remained years longer in Boardtown, probably completing her life there.

The Clontzes usually seemed deeply interested in religion. And they were very energetic in any work they attempted to do. The high record in the church life of the 1880s of Mrs. Annie E. (Clontz) Craigo is mentioned under the Craigo family and elsewhere.

Cobb

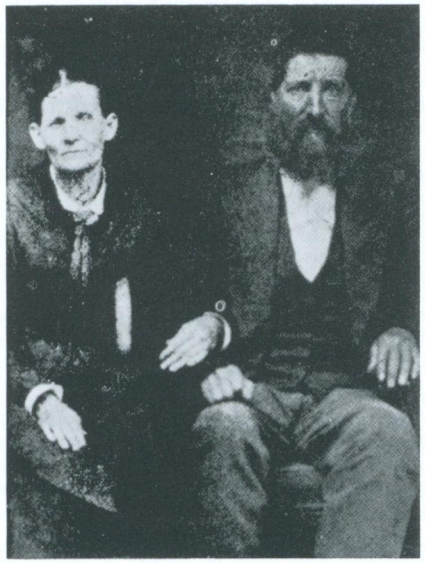
Cobb is a name well known both in Gilmer and in general Georgia history. John Patrick Cobb, senior and junior, are noted in a number of references. Ellison Cobb was the father of John P. Cobb Sr.

Belle S. was the first wife of J. P. Cobb Jr. and the mother of Roy Cobb, present mayor of Ellijay. Born Jan. 18, 1866, she died Jan. 28, 1898. Clarence E. (Dec. 19, 1863—July 20, 1891) was a son of J. P. Cobb Sr.

Homer B., Dec. 9, 1865—Oct. 13, 1887; and L. C., May 26, 1852—July 11, 1885; Nathan L., Walter V. and William F. were other sons.

Daughters were Minnie (Mrs. M. L. Cox) and Wilmot (Mrs. J. W. Glenn). Miss Minnie (Mary Frances) Cobb was married to M. L. Cox in 1880. She died Oct. 11, 1945.

A number of citations of members of this family and their relatives will be found elsewhere.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN P. COBB, SR.

Mr. Cobb was a widely known citizen and business leader of his day.

Cody

The Cody family was once prominent in Boardtown district. Other people of the name lived in Mountaintown in the earlier period of our history. This could have been the same family or relatives. For Codys have markers in the cemetery of the Mountaintown Baptist church. And the Boardtown family of Codys left Boardtown when George Watkins bought the estate and moved in on or about Nov. 9, 1877.

Inscriptions at Mountaintown reveal: Pierce Cody, Oct. 10, 1754—Oct. 20, 1845; Charity, June 11, 1769—April 24, 1860.

The Codys owned some of the fine farm land of the County. But the George Watkins estate came to include property perhaps not owned by the Codys, such as portions of the Wes Legg estate. The Watkins lands were redistributed soon after his death early in 1907.

People named Garren, Thurmon, Luke Whitaker and others later came to own much of the old Cody place.

The name has long since vanished. Only a certain species of desirable corn is cultivated by a few farmers that bears the name Cody, after this family. Tokens of their energy and enterprise remain too, where they dug a side channel, on the west bank of the Ellijay river, just south of the confluence of Boardtown creek with the river.

Diverting the river into this canal must have required a considerable dam—though remains of this must have washed away a long time ago. Old people have said this diverted portion of the river was actually used to turn a mill, long since crumbled into ruins or swept away by floods. Mrs. Lou Plemmons, in her day, remembered the Codys well.

William Ellington II was confident these Codys were related to Buffalo Bill, whose real name was William F. Cody. However, the father of the famous frontiersman is recorded to have lived in Ohio.

"Captain" James Cody lived in the Boardtown section. He must have resided there considerably after 1850. There were daughters in the family, according to Mrs. Plemmons, who was a friend and associate of the girls. James Cody's title was probably earned by a military record.

Coggins

Jonathon L. Coggins, a young man from Habersham county, came to Gilmer "about" the fall of 1836. He bought and settled upon a place once tenated also by Milton Davis. A son, Pink, was believed to have lived upon the home place until about 1885.

When Mr. Coggins arrived, he had no neighbor living nearer than three miles except John Kingfisher, an Indian, whose cabin stood where Mrs. J. C. Mulkey later lived.

When Coggins reached Gilmer he had but recently married a Miss King from North Carolina. They spent a pioneer honeymoon at their new home in the woods. Both Coggins and his wife possessed unusual energy and industry, which foretokened their later success in life.

Members of this family have long since disappeared from Gilmer. But descendants settled at Canton and Atlanta and became prominently identified socially and in a business way. B. F. Coggins of Atlanta is said to be a descendant.

Cole

John P. Cole was the original member of his family to come to Gilmer, arriving from Buncombe county, North Carolina, in 1841. He was born June 18, 1793, and died Sept. 13, 1877. He settled first at Ellijay. But, prior to the Civil War, he removed to Mountaintown district.

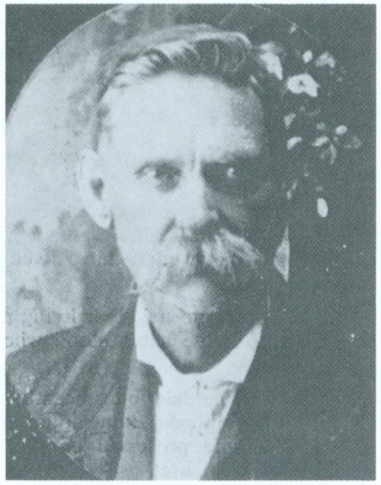
Before he left North Carolina he had married a member of the Jones family (still represented in Boardtown). Members of his wife's family later came to the County.

Rens and Jake Cole came to Gilmer but did not stay. They were descendants of John P., as were J. P. (Peter) and Bill, who remained.

Monuments in Mountaintown Baptist church cemetery show: Patsy Cole was born Nov. 4, 1793, and died the same day as John P. Cole, Sept. 13, 1877. They were born the same year, 1793. John P. II was born June 18, 1818. He died Feb. 28, 1896. Susan S. was born March 27, 1819, and died Aug. 3, 1902. Susan C. Cole, born Sept. 6, 1843, died Nov. 2, 1881.

A. J. Cole is remembered by many living persons. He served in the 65th Georgia regiment, C. S. A. He left Gilmer in Capt. Kitchen's company. Born Aug. 22, 1841, he was well and favorably known long after war days, living until Jan. 13, 1914. Mr. Cole served bravely in the terrible battle of Franklin, Tenn. He was hit 17 times.

May 24, 1926, the Cole family held a reunion at the old John P. Cole home in Mountaintown, seven miles northwest of Ellijay. Of the descendants of the pioneer John P. Cole four surviving children were present: C. W. Cole, S. J. Cole, Mrs. Ann Tabor, Mrs. Sarah Anderson.



A. J. (JEFFERSON) COLE

Hit 17 times during the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, he nevertheless survived to be a county official and otherwise a useful and popular citizen. Mr. Cole was born August 22, 1841, and died January 13, 1914, at the age of 72.

Other descendants and related persons present were Miss Lula Anderson, Mrs. J. G. Cole, H. C. Cole, Mrs. H. C. Cole; and two sons of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Cole, Bill and Jeff.

The Cole and Cody families are related.

Additional data on the Cole family should include Beula Victoria (Dec. 16, 1883; Oct. 25, 1929); Mattie Lee, Nov. 20, 1887; Susan May, June 9, 1890; Essie Omie, April 20, 1893; Vernie, Nov. 11, 1890. Vernie (or Verna) and Homer Starks were married Nov. 18, 1917.

A. J. Cole first married Miss Catherin Withrow, daughter of J. J. Withrow, pioneer. Five children were born to this union. Laura, who married a Harper; Nora, who married a Wilson; Emma, who married a man named Ratcliff. There were sons Gordon and Clinton, who still live and have been a valuable consultant.

A. J. Cole's second wife was the former Rebecca Tatum, who prior to marriage to Mr. Cole, was the wife of Joe Debord. To this union were born three children.

A number of the children by Mr. Cole's marriage to Mrs. Debord have already been listed.

Coleman

E. W. Coleman was born at Ellijay, Aug. 2, 1861. Early in life he moved to Talking Rock, where he was located on a farm till his 22nd year. He attended the public schools of Pickens county and the Ludville academy. In 1881 he entered the North Georgia Agricultural College. By teaching during the vacation periods he helped to pay his way through the college, from which he was graduated in 1884.

After his graduation, young Coleman taught at Pine Log high school in Bartow county. He studied law in Atlanta under Henry B. Tompkins. He was admitted to the bar, 1885, and long lived and practiced the profession of law at Canton, Ga. In 1888 he was married to Miss Fannie King of Marietta. In 1893 he turned to gold mining and engineering. He died at Canton, April 13, 1932.

His father, Watson R., born June 8, 1817, died Dec. 15, 1897. He first moved to Ellijay in 1834. Later, he moved away, and was gone many years. He returned, however, in 1887, when he began publishing the Ellijay Courier.

His first wife was Salina Ellington. A son by her was named Lycurgus, who became a physician. His second wife appears to have been Nannie Alzie Wilson. Children by this wife were James I., Elnathan W., Walter Scott, Tinie E. (Bledsoe), born Dec. 27, 1865, and died Aug. 27, 1887.

The second wife, born May 28, 1826, lived till Aug. 30, 1902. Upon her decease, she was buried in the old family plot in Ellijay cemetery.

Conley

Charles Conley once lived in Boardtown district. Some of the descendants of the early Conleys lived, a few years since, in upper Cherrylog district. This family intermarried with the George Watkins family of Boardtown.

Cooper

Cornelius Cooper was a pioneer, arriving in Gilmer while it was still the "Injun Nation." He was our first state senator in 1833. About 1835, he lived in Tickanetley district on a farm that was later known as the Brindle place. He later removed to Texas. John Stone of Cartecay was a relative.

His father, Benjamin Cooper, was one of the County's first justices of the inferior court. He was here several years before the Indians were removed, residing on the Toccoa river. Cooper's Gap, between Gaddistown and Dahlonega, was named for him. For it was from there he removed to the Price Roberts place, a little more than a mile up the Boardtown road from the earliest city limits of Ellijay.

In the spring of 1833 he was already living at this place. His second wife was a Cherokee. By her, he raised quite a family. Two of his daughters, Nancy and Sally, were grown up by the time the family got to Gilmer. Mr. Cooper was reported by neighbors as kind and affectionate toward his family and solicitous of its welfare.

That same spring Mr. Cooper asked B. B. Quillian to organize, in the Cooper home, the first Sunday School known to have been organized within the bounds of modern Gilmer County. Years before Talloney mission had organized a Sunday School there.

Most of the scholars in Mr. Cooper's school were Cherokees. Mr. Cooper, quiet, unassuming, honest and upright, was a social loss to Gilmer County when, a few years later, he removed to Arkansas.

Cotter

William F. Cotter, while neither a native nor at any time a resident of Gilmer, early visited the County and data recorded by him are of very great importance.

He was born in Hall county Nov. 16, 1823. He died at Newnan Jan. 4, 1922, at the age of 98. He lived among the Indians of adjoining Murray county during his formative boyhood. He visited Gilmer while the Indians were still here. He came back after he grew up.

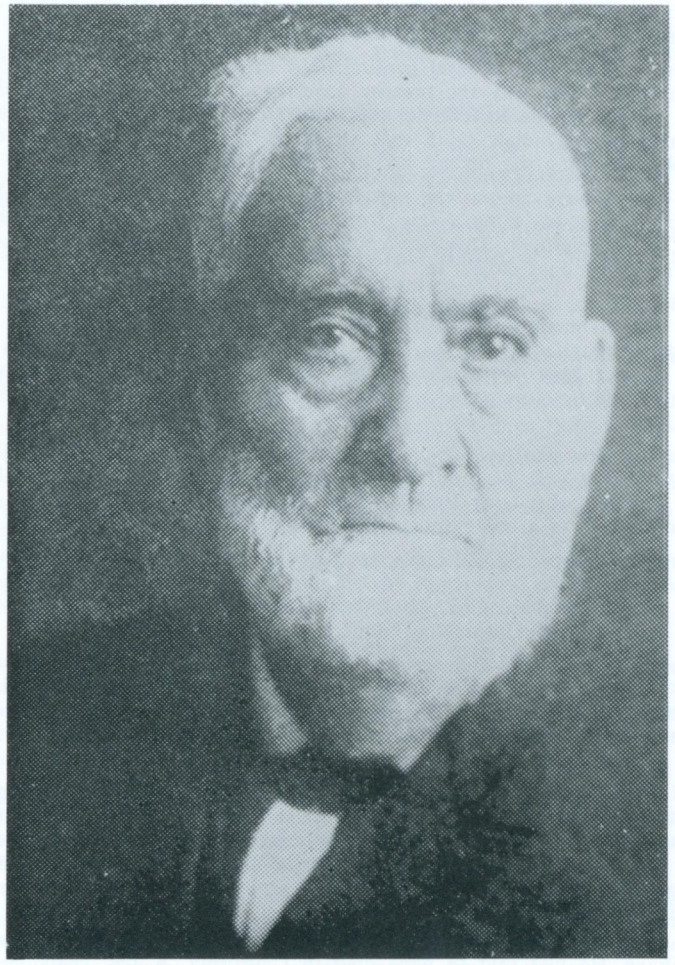
He was Methodist pastor at Grantville, Senoia and Turin. During his last years he was known as the oldest preacher in Georgia. A stained window in the Methodist church at Newnan commemorates him. He settled in Newnan in 1888, having removed there from Grantville.

Mr. Cotter was stationed at Dahlonega in 1844. In 1846, Blairsville being an important mission center, he went there. Deploying from that center, he filled 20 preaching appointments a month in three states—Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina. While engaged in his Blairsville work, Mr. Cotter and his spouse passed through Ellijay bound for their new location.

The couple was riding in a hack, which, somewhere north of White Path, broke down. The only available place for lodging for the night was a log shack with a floor part puncheon and part dirt. Mr. Cotter left his wife there, returned to White Path (then booming with gold mining) and procured a "carry-all," in which he drove back north. He reached the house where his wife was before nightfall. At midnight the host came in drunk, but the couple stayed through an unpleasant situation.

The next day the Cotters got no farther than the home of Elijah W. Chastain. (This man lived on a pleasant point overlooking the Toccoa river in sight to the south. The spot is now inundated by Blue Ridge lake. Mr. Chastain, though living on the edge of Morganton, resided on soil of the Gilmer of that day. He was later a member of congress).

We are profoundly indebted to Mr. Cotter's "My Autobiography," a book penned in his old age and affording glimpses of the highest importance concerning our County.



WILLIAM F. COTTER

He glimpsed with the vivid eye of adolescence some of the panorama of our early history. While living near the Sam Carter place, Murray county, 1832 to 1838, he witnessed happenings important to Gilmer. He visited the County after he grew to manhood, also, and left important records of his trips.

Cox

Richard Cox Jr. lived in Habersham county in 1827. A Richard Cox is mentioned by B. B. Quillian "on the Cox farm" July 4, 1835. Elsewhere Mr. Quillian says this place was north of the Cox Mill creek. Richard Cox was in Gilmer in June 1840, and was then mentioned as being 79.

He was receiving a Federal pension, said to have been for services during the Revolution.* The way the meager government record reads it could have been for service "in the Revolution and other wars." A family tradition says he first located in an Indian cabin that stood on ground that later became the garden plot adjoining the former home of Mrs. Mart Cox.

The Coxes were among the earliest of Ellijay's white inhabitants. But in Indian days there was quite a skip from the few houses around the square to the first Cox homestead. This fact could have caused a miscount, in dates of early arrivals, for ones closest in.**

B. B. Quillian, in describing houses and their occupants in Ellijay the spring of 1833, fails to mention the Cox home—probably for the reason given in the preceding paragraph. He does name an Indian named Harry Downing as living near the former Mrs. M. L. Cox home. He probably regarded such domicile, if existent at the time, as connected with land farther north, considered "country property."

Jonathon Cox was an active and prominent figure at Ellijay in 1835. For on July 4 of that year he was among those boosting community hospitality by assisting with a barbecue at Ellijay. "Kind, obliging, no man loved and served his friends better" is a contemporary's description of him.

Sheriff of Gilmer 1838-39, he was said to have owned a farm which, by 1880, had become the property of Mrs. Laura Cox. Upon this property he lived in 1835. He and Richard Cox, his father, were said by B. B. Quillian to have come to Gilmer from Habersham county.

Jonathon Cox was a Democrat in politics. While not holding any membership, he may have been nearer to the Baptist faith, which was that of his wife. While limited in education, he met the usual difficulties with energy and natural intelligence. As a public official he was brave, it was said. "A good neighbor, obliging as circumstances gave opportunity, he was kind in his home."

Mr. Cox was here in plenty of time to see the first discovery of gold at White Path. He no doubt was impressed by this and studied the whole process of removing it from the diggings there. He was well acquainted with other gold findings in the Dahlonega area. At any rate, he was one of a number of men who migrated to the California gold fields around the date made famous in California history—1849.

But the trip proved a disappointment, as it was to many others that went from Gilmer. He was said to have died in California. A few years later, the death of his wife occurred.

Beginning with Richard Cox, the family line continues, through Jonathon, to the present time. Richard Cox Jr. was without issue. Sons of Jonathon were Peter, John, Goolsby and William (referred to in his time as "Billy"). William Cox, born Aug. 28, 1827, died Aug. 4, 1865. His wife Laura D. was born July 21, 1832, and died July 27, 1886.

*He would have been too young to serve except in the latter phases of that conflict. In 1847 he removed to Dade county, where his last pension check was paid in 1851 through attorney, William Morel.

**The place was five or six "blocks" beyond the northern boundary of the original 10-acre site of Ellijay.

Of these several sons of Jonathon Cox, William only left issue— two sons, Marcus (Mart) Cox and Bart Cox; and daughters, Mrs. T. H. Tabor and Mrs. John Perry. Bart Cox was never married.

Marcus (Mart) left descendants: Charley, M. L. (Marcus) Jr., Clarence (all three now, 1960, deceased); and Manley L., till recently operating a drug store in Ellijay. Daughters were Lillie, Edith, Pearl, Willie and Berta.

Another Generation

Descendants of Charley are Kathleen, Christine, Marcus; of M. L. Jr. (Marcus), Sue and John Mell; of Clarence, Mary Louise, Laura Katharyn, James Clarence; of Manley L., Joseph Cox.

Descended from Lillie, who married Boone Crawford, are Sara and Montez; and from Berta, who married Thomas Jeffries Harlan, are Marcus, Jeffries.

Further Descendants

Tracing the family of Mrs. Harlan (through her son John Marcus), we come to the youngest of this family. They are Pauline, John Marcus Jr., Louise Cox (born Nov. 3, 1952); and through her son Thomas Jeffries Harlan Jr. we trace more to the young contingent. These are Thomas Jeffries Harlan III and Douglas Wills Harlan.

From Manley (through his son Joseph) we trace the ancestral line to two of the youngest of the family, Joseph Carroll Jr. and George Angus, both born in Huntsville, Ala.

The Cox family has been careful over the whole period of our history to keep records of the family.

Craigo

The Craigo family is directly related to the earliest founders of the County, though not arriving, for its part, until about 1844. Mrs. Annie E. (Oct. 16, 1827—April 4, 1920) was the daughter of a pioneer immigrant named Clontz, born in Germany.

Her husband, William Alexander Craigo (Oct. 25, 1822—June 3, 1866) once served what is now the East Ellijay community as justice of the peace. He had moved, just after the cessation of the Civil War, to the place long known as the old Craigo place in that neighborhood.

A case long notorious came before him. It was a sheep-stealing accusation. Justice Craigo regarded the evidence as clear-cut. In spite of the unsettled, often disorderly times following the war, he was firm in his convictions and ignored a policy of looseness, and decided the matter, his neighbors averred, justly, as the law directed. But he thereby incurred the bitterest enmity of a man of the vicinity who had reportedly threatened him.

This, the family and their friends long believed, led directly to his being basely and treacherously shot in the back as he stood on his front porch and reached to hang up a water gourd. Mr. Craigo died four days later.

The writer does not even know who was suspected of committing a murder done 94 years ago. But old people have told me that the family under suspicion in the Craigo case might have explained the death, also, of William Cox.

Descendants of the pioneer Craigo couple are: Sarah Rebecca (born Sept. 5, 1849), who married Rev. Lew D. Ellington; Thomas Winn (born June 27,

MRS. ANNIE E. CLONTZ CRAIGO,
who reared her family in the best traditions

1851), from whom descended Robert, Will, Tom Jr. Tom's widow survived him many years and served her home community as postmistress; William Wright (Nov. 7, 1853—Dec. 12, 1893); John Robert (born July 19, 1856); Matilda Cordelia.

Those who can recall the early years of this century remember Mike Clontz of Boardtown. He was a good man, very kind and sympathetic. He was very energetic, too. He moved to the Copper Hill area and there reared a useful family. He maintained his family well. Sam was a brother to Mike. He was said to have moved to Gordon county. Jane, a sister to these two men, seems to have remained in the old home community after the other members of her family were gone.

Dale

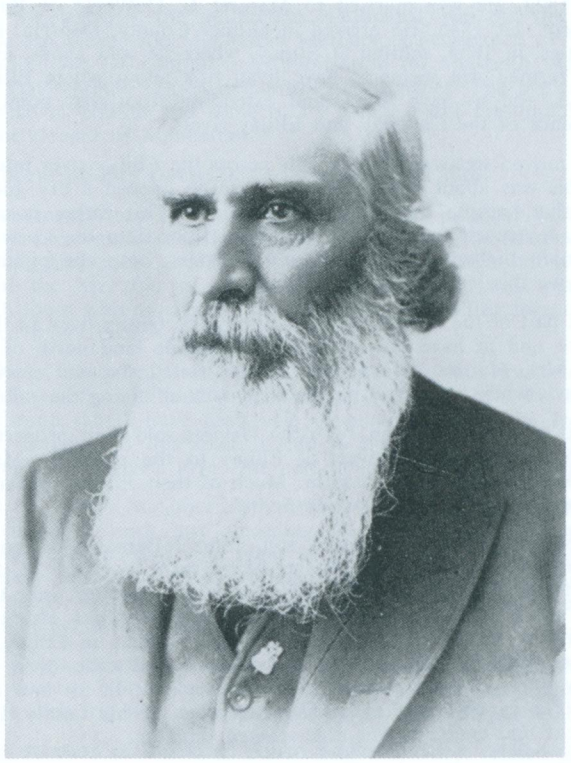
The Dales were already in the County in 1833. The first members of the family settled in the Flat Branch community, partly in Ellijay district and partly in Boardtown. Jake and John were pioneers.

John was said to have come from Habersham county. He lived to be nearly 100 years old. Jake and John helped in Indian removal. William Dale was another pioneer.

Some members of the family were believed to have come from North Carolina. Descendants of these early settlers still live in the County.

Davis

Milton Davis came early from Habersham county. He first settled on a place later known as the Lewis Edmondson place in Tickanetley district. This was one of the best farm-land lots in the County. He found much of it in cane-brakes. Here he lived until after the Civil War. He then moved to the Clear Creek neighborhood.



JOHN E. DAVIS
Native of North Carolina, Figure of Importance in His Time in Gilmer.

After the death of his wife there, Aug. 21, 1870, he quit housekeeping and lived for some years with his son-in-law, Mr. Martin Teem. By the early 1880's Milton Davis was over 80. His eyesight was considerably impaired. But, mentally, he was pronounced by contemporaries as sound, often conversing intelligently and interestingly of events of the past. Few Gilmer people have lived so long or been remembered so pleasantly. Born Feb. 28, 1791, he died at Ellijay June 23, 1886. Rebecca, who, from her tombstone, appears to have been his spouse, was born in 1797. A Whig, no church; raised a large family.

Bunyan Davis lived many years in Ellijay. Joseph Davis is listed among Confederate veterans, descendants being listed as Bill, Jodie (killed on a turkey hunt), Martha (Mrs. Dale) and Mollie (Mrs. Davenport). Descendants of Bill are John, Joe, Andrew, Lester, George, Arvil, Annie, Corrie (the last two twins) have all lived in Gilmer. Mesdames Dale and Davenport have left descendants in Gilmer.

The John E. Davis Clan

John E. Davis was born near Waynesville, Haywood county, North Carolina, January 17, 1827. He was married to Margret L. DeWeese of Burning Creek community Sept. 27, 1845. He arrived in Gilmer County, Georgia, according to some authorities, in 1855, settling at Ellijay, where he sold goods, manufactured wagons, and farmed. He seems to have lived first about where Ellijay railroad station now is, and to have tilled land extending from that point west down to the confluence of the Cartecay and Ellijay rivers.

He later moved westward half a mile across the Ellijay river into the village of Ellijay. This was about 1861. For that year he opened a dry goods store in the building that became the Mountainview hotel. This rather quaint structure was of wood. It opened from a sort of ground floor onto the Cartersville road, the present main highway southward; and, upstairs, onto the public square of the town. Above this level was a third floor.

During a part of the Davises' stay in Ellijay the family lived in this building. Members were said to have also farmed considerable land north of the present River street. Mrs. Martha (Ward) Smith once stated she had carried drinking to Garrett Davis while he worked in the field now adjoining the railroad station.

Sometime between 1861 and 1869 the Davises sold their property in Ellijay and moved out six miles northwest of Ellijay to the place, in Mountaintown district, now known as the Pickett farm. Much of their Ellijay property seems to have been transferred to John P. Cobb Sr.

While John E. lived at Ellijay, a son, John Jefferson, was born. He was usually referred to as Jeff Davis. The date of his birth was Oct. 27, 1850. Either this date is wrong or this family of Davises arrived in Gilmer prior to that date, of course. It seems definite, according to surviving members of this clan, that he was a native of Gilmer. Before the day of newspapers in Ellijay, Jeff Davis went to Cartersville, 60 miles south, and learned the trade of a printer. He studied keenly the operation, generally, of a newspaper. In his new capacity, he proved himself a capable and enterprising member of his family, and became noted as a clear and energetic and free-spirited thinker.

John E. Davis is believed to have occupied the Mountaintown place several years. He was a neighbor of Henry Grady I. But in 1869 he sold out again. The remainder of his personal effects he loaded into two sturdy wagons, drawn each

by double teams, and headed for Dalton, the nearest railroad station, more than 30 miles away. From there, he continued his journey by rail to Fort Scott, Kan., where he followed the builder's trade, constructing, principally, houses. At the time of his death, Feb. 28, 1900, he was still residing there—at 832 South Main street. His widow (born Jan. 20, 1825) survived till the first day of May 1902, passing at the home of her son Will.

One son, Garrett H., returned from Kansas to Ellijay because, it was said by relatives, his wife, who was a Miss Foote, preferred to live in Gilmer. Born Sept. 26, 1848, he was the oldest son of his family. Only a sister named Minnie, who made an unfortunate marriage, was older. Garrett H. died at Ellijay Jan. 15, 1926, leaving several survivors.

These were three daughters, Mesdames R. A. Pinson, Wilmot Sellers, Lois Smith; three sons, Charles J., H. Lawrence and H. Levier Davis. His wife, Mary Julia, born May 5, 1848, also died at Ellijay Jan. 14, 1926, within a day of the death of her husband. The two were buried the same day.

Other children of John E. were a daughter—the youngest child—familiarly known as "Sister"; sons, Robert Z., Columbus J., Will D. and A. Lawrence.

Jeff Davis, after much travel and keen observation in the then rather raw, new West and Northwest, settled at Manhattan, Kansas, in 1874. For some years he was with a newspaper, the Manhattan Nationalist, run by Albert Griffin. In May 1884 he established the Manhattan Mercury, a newspaper, of which he was publisher and editor. He continued its publication till his death, April 14, 1903. In 1905 the Davis family ceased its control of the paper. The Mercury, however, though changed in politics and some of its policies, still presumably carries on, the leading newspaper of Manhattan.

At the death of Jeff Davis, this tribute was paid him:

"As a newspaper man he was a success; a strong editorial writer, especially of editorials in condensed form. He was anxious to have the Manhattan Mercury live on, wishing his widow and a son to continue its publication. He claimed no knowledge of the hereafter of human life and destiny, but was liberal and generous with those who maintained they had. He was willing to accept whatever eternal Justice might decree or accord."

E. J. Davis, a son of Jeff, some 30 years ago, still lived in Manhattan Kansas. And it was through him, my father and his sister, Mrs. M. L. Smith, and Miss Edna Pinson that I have been able to obtain data of the John E. Davis family. E. J. Davis pays this final tribute to his father, "A wonderful father, as good a man as ever lived, loved the natural life but lived to be but 52."

Mrs. M. L. Smith, together with her sister Nancy, visited the family of John E. Davis for a week just preceding the Davis migration westward. She recalled seeing $2500 in gold coin lying on a table. She very pleasantly remembered the hearty hospitality of the home. She declared Louisa, mother of the numerous progeny, as plain in appearance but competent in overhauling the human lapses of her husband and setting him right again.

John E. Davis returned from Kansas on occasional visits to both northern Georgia and western North Carolina. Once he had Eliza (or Louisa), his wife with him. One such trip was made to settle up an estate of his father's.

On some occasion of this kind, Albert Gallatin Ward, related to the family, believed a member of the Davis clan composed the popular old folk song, "Forty Years Ago," sometimes designated "Twenty Years Ago." The first stanza is quoted.

Forty Years Ago

I've wandered to the village, Tom;
I've sat beneath the tree,
Upon the schoolhouse playing ground
That sheltered you and me;
But none were there to greet me, Tom,
And few were left to know
Who played with us upon the green
Just forty years ago.
(For refrain, the last two lines of each stanza are repeated).

The writer has not been able to find the name of anybody attached, as author, to these verses.

Deborde

This is among the few old Huguenot (Protestant French) names in the County. Members early settled on the north side of the Coosawattee river five miles south and slightly west of Ellijay. Tom was a pioneer.

Mrs. Deborde was 18 when she arrived here in 1841. She died in 1895. When members of this family rode a horse to Ellijay, they had nothing but trails to travel, and the grass was nearly as tall as the horse. Mrs. Ben Charles was among Gilmer descendants of this family.

Other mention of the family will be found on our pages.

Deweese

Several members of the family were pioneers. Others came in occasionally from North Carolina. In most cases the families were related, apparently. J. T. Deweese, for a number of years, lived at the mouth of Turniptown creek near the Ellijay river. He and his family left the county some years ago.

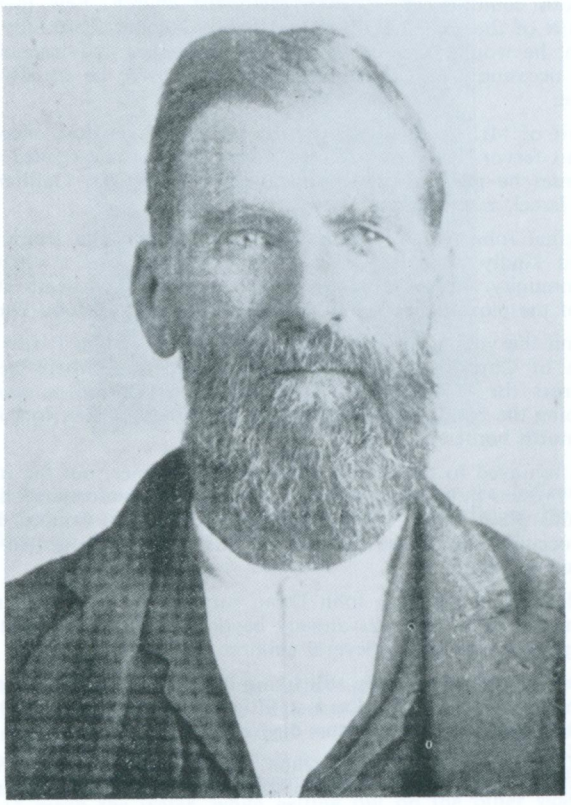
Duckett

John W. Duckett was in the War between the States on the Union side. He was a notable builder of churches, mills, dams and other structures. A power in the Methodist church, a momentous factor in the life of the Ellijay Seminary, he was a man of spirit, imagination, character and bold enterprise. He was one of the County's foremost advertisers.

About 1890 this progressive man was president of the Ellijay Board of Trade. He influenced the Evans Land and Lumber Company to establish itself at Ellijay. He supplied the County's largest lumber mills with millions of feet of timber, in the form of logs, annually.

John W. Duckett died January 24, 1899. His going was a distinct loss to Gilmer enterprise and religious and educational life.

The funeral of Mrs. Rhoda M. Duckett, 74, was held at the Nine Mile Methodist church January 31, 1959.



JOHN W. DUCKETT

Master builder, a genius with machinery, he was also the friend of liberal education and character founded on a sensitive conscience.

Dunn

John Dunn arrived from Rabun county in the fall of 1833, settling in the Cartecay neighborhood. He bought and occupied a farm upon which a "Mrs. Johnson" later lived. He was a son-in-law of "Captain Kell."

For many years he was a resident of the Cartecay community. He and his wife were both communicants of the Methodist church. Few men seemed to enjoy the spirit of the religious life more than did Dunn. Faithfully in his place at his church, he would face, expectantly, the preacher and lose himself in the spirit of the occasion. And, the meeting having closed, he usually pronounced it a good one.

The spirit of Mr. Dunn was such that leaders of religious meetings seemed inspired by his fervor. Human in his emotions, he sometimes added a tear to the hearty responses he gave to the sentiments of the speaker. Quillian called him "a father in Israel, a strength in Zion."

The original John Dunn died about 1883. Another John Dunn, of esteemed character and kindly disposition, born Feb. 4, 1863, was a citizen of upper Owltown community, where he was living at the time of his death at 67. He was a grandson of the pioneer. Hence, we shall refer to him as John Dunn II.

Mr. Dunn the younger said his grandfather, John Dunn I, first lived at the present town of Copperhill, on the border of Georgia, where he operated a ferryboat across the Ocoee river. While here, he suffered a severe financial reverse by going the bond of a neighbor, the bond having been forfeited. He then left that far north border of Gilmer.

He then removed to the Swann place, still in Gilmer, not far from Oakland schoolhouse. Pressed by the necessity of discharging his unfortunate involvements, he gave up this place. While the Indians were still in the County, he moved to a farm long occupied by Manse Clayton. By this move, he hoped to realize more cash to pay on the bond.

The widow of the pioneer John Dunn survived her husband, residing with a son in Fannin county. She was already beyond 80 at last account we have of her. Her deep piety was noted. Several children survived her.

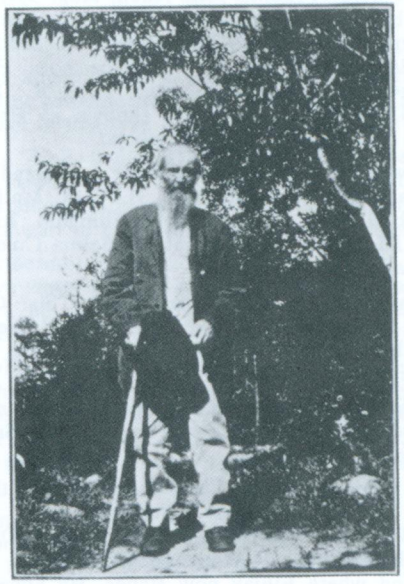
Members of the Dunn family still living in Gilmer descend from John Dunn II. These consist of Harley, who lived at Ellijay until his death in 1943; brothers, Grover, James and Homer. One sister died early.

Morris Dunn is a son of Homer Dunn. Harley Dunn left three children: Lee, now a druggist in Jasper; Mrs. William Garrett and Miss Joyce Dunn.

Ellington

The Ellington family arrived in Gilmer County Feb. 12, 1834. Members came from Hall county. The first in the Ellington line was Rev. William. His son, Coke A. Ellington, sold goods in the same house that A. K. Blackwell had used. This location adjoined the modern Waters store. He remained here two years. He then sold his mercantile business and removed to the Math Bennett place, just out of Ellijay on the Boardtown road. On this lot (61) he erected a house.

Later he moved three miles east of Ellijay into the Owltown sector, where he remained until the end of his life. Mrs. Ann Ellington, as long as she lived, kept in her possession some of the record books in which Coke Ellington maintained records during his days of merchandising, trading post style, with Cherokees and whites.



WILLIAM ELLINGTON II

Gentle-spirited Thinker and Friend of Progress. Born among the Indians in 1836, he lived to be 93 and saw much of the stirring pageant of Our History. He was a willing helper in making our historical record richer.

Before William Ellington I, whose father was named David Ellington, settled in Gilmer, he came and looked the region over. Having returned to Hall, Mr. Ellington gathered his clan and returned to Gilmer by Indian trails. These the party sometimes had to widen, dig down or fill in before the slow, heavily laden wagons could lumber by. Banks of streams often had to be dug lower to permit the vehicles to reach the water, while getting out on the other side presented a second problem.

William Ellington used to point out, in Owltown community, where he and his party spent the last night before they reached Ellijay. The trail of the Ellingtons led through upper Owltown, where they sighted the largest piece of cleared ground they had seen, up to that point, in the County.

If William Ellington was not Ellijay's first merchant, as has been claimed, he was certainly very early among operators of such posts. He was one of our first slaveholders—was first so far as available records show. He was early enough to learn the lingo, trails, homes and customs of the red man. He died prior to 1836, leaving a considerable estate for the times, consisting of land, slaves and other property.

His descendants, besides Coke A., were Lewis, Burdine, Fletcher, to name sons. Daughters were Salina Coleman, Sallie Quillian, Jane Greer, Betsy King and Jerusha Watkins.

Issue of Coke A. were: Priscilla Jane Allen, Aug. 3, 1838—May 1, 1898; Rebecca Westbrooks, born Aug. 5, 1840; Isabel Boston Feb. 26, 1848—Dec. 15, 1915; William II, born at the Charley Ray farm Nov. 23, 1836, died Dec. 23, 1927; Frank, March 26, 1842—March 10, 1924; Joe, born, Feb. 26, 1844; Lewis Duvall, born April 14, 1846; Asbury Fletcher, April 8, 1851—May 3, 1910; Henry, March 8, 1853—Nov. 3 1926; Hill (known as Heg), Jan. 1, 1860—March 21, 1881; and others that died in childhood.

Issue of Lewis were: Mary Simmons, Jane Strickland, Nannie Coleman, John; of Burdine: Margaret Greer, died Oct. 31, 1914; Mattie Chase, died July 3, 1923; Rachel Smith, Joanna Clayton, Molly Ellington, John William (Bud); of Fletcher: William III, Olan, Frank, Ralph; of Salina Coleman: Dr. Lycurgus and others that died early.

Of Sallie Coleman: Ann Slagle, Mattie Wilson, "Sis" Green, Jennie Will, Chap; of Jane Greer: William Fletcher, Salina Frances, Moses C., Lewis Benton, Asbury Carter, John Manning, Levi Garrett, Burdine Coke, Laura Clistie (Mrs. Lark Bishop), Jerome Franklin, Sara Priscilla (Mrs. Frank Waters).

Of Betsy King: Sara Ann; of Jerusha Watkins, who long ago moved away and was lost to record: was born Mat, who married Jim Smith; and was born also Sarah Jane Sullivan.

So important to Gilmer was the Coke Ellington line that we add further facts on it. Coke A. himself was born in Jackson county July 21, 1812, and arrived to settle in Gilmer Feb. 12, 1834, as already noted. On Dec. 17 1835, he married Mary Griffith, daughter of Benjamin Griffith. He helped to clear the white oaks off the land where Ellijay now stands. He apparently occupied the Charley Ray farm awhile.

About 1840 he was living in a little cabin that had been built by Indians on the Math Bennett place. He owned a little Negro boy, aged about six, who was much frightened by a bear that climbed a fence and passed through a patch of cleared ground back of the cabin. The pickaninny knew his bears and yelled, as he raced toward the house, "Bear! Bear!"

In 1844 Coke Ellington and his family moved to Owltown community—into another Indian cabin. The family sheep roamed about the surrounding hills, which were swarming with wolves. The sheep had to be brought home and confined in a stout pen nightly.

Coke Ellington was described by B. B. Quillian as having obtained a fair elementary education before he came to Gilmer. He further describes him as having "one of the best intellects in the community" and as a "natural leader." Ellington, about 1837, was elected to the state senate; but, after he had served his term, retired for a long time from politics.

He had a wide acquaintance with the Cherokees and enjoyed staunch friendships among them. He was a captain of the local militia of the early days. He aided in removing the Indians. A strong union man, he vigorously opposed secession. When the Whig party dissolved, he joined the Republicans. During the Civil War, he refugeed.

Upon his return home, he was selected a member of the first Constitutional convention, becoming a member of the so-called "Johnson convention." He gave his efforts to restoring the union of states and national harmony. In 1865 he was elected to the general assembly of Georgia without opposition. His term of service consisted of two years of the fierce stress and distraction of reconstruction.

He voted for the bitterly contested 15th amendment to the federal constitution, he and William Humphries of Fannin county being alone in their support of the act. After his term of service was out, he quit politics, as

mentioned already. He read much and, in any controversy, could clinch his position with the force of facts. He had unusual ability in making interesting conversation. Religiously he was a Methodist.

In 1873 he was appointed to a place in the internal revenue service. But being out of sympathy with the manner of administering internal revenue laws, he was not very active in this type of government service.

Two of his sons, A. F. and L. D., were prominent Methodist ministers. His wife died March 27, 1874. Mr. Ellington himself survived till July 11, 1895. His son, William II, was among most active promoters of a railroad for this section. He was likewise a stalwart in procuring and nurturing a newspaper for Gilmer.

William II, furthermore, was a highly reliable and important consultant during the formative days of producing this history. Patient, keen, mentally alert, sound of heart, he was unfailingly helpful and generous, the sympathetic friend of all my efforts.

As a token of his quality, the following verse is inserted. He wrote these serious lines when he was around 93, a short time before his last brief illness that terminated in his death. He told me he wanted the matter published because he had almost lived out his life. "And before I go hence," he added, "I want this to be known as my little confession regarding things eternal. It embraces my philosophy."

While here in my room
Awaiting my doom,
Bright hope of the future
Disperses my gloom. . .
Let the soul here be patient,
Humble, honest and brave
To meet what may follow
When I go to the grave.
Just what that is
Unto man is not given
Just what awaits us
In what we call heaven.
The soul, when it leaves here,
Goes not back to dust:
It finds a place with the wicked
Or the righteous and just.
Our bodies must perish,
But the soul still survives;
And we reap the reward
We have earned in our lives.
We can serve God only
Through love of the right,
Not from fear of the devil—
Through fear and by fright.
We serve God as a god
Full of mercy and love,
If we reap the reward
That we hope for above. . .
Trust all to God,
The great Creator,
And follow the teachings
Of the great mediator.

Mr. Ellington requested me to come to his bedside during his last illness. I offered such consolation as I could. He said he sensed the end of his life. I also

assisted with his funeral. I felt myself resigning to the inevitable a friend of profound merit.

Lewis D. Ellington, oldest son of Rev. William Ellington I, and, therefore, brother to Coke A., did not remove here with his father. He followed, from Habersham, January 1836, the first arrival of members of his clan.

He bought land adjoining the old McHan place on the north, where his oldest daughter, Mrs. Mary Simmons, was living during the early 1880s. Here he continued to make his home until August 1859. An attack of pneumonia, after lasting 11 days, terminated in his death. Sincere and honorable neighbors of his described him as a true asset of his community.

In fact, since his day, L. D. Ellington has been cherished in memory as a whole-spirited, upright citizen of traditional quality. From early boyhood, he belonged to the M. E. Church, had been for 25 years class leader in his denominational group, being well adapted to such work. While never licensed to exercise ministerial privileges, he was said to have been one of the most gifted men of his time in "exhorting," never failing to make an impression.

So useful a neighbor was he that it was hard for his community to fill the vacancy caused, in Cartecay church, by his passing. Liberal in his support of his church, he was also the friend of the poor and unfortunate. He was seldom on the wrong side of any question. Composed, poised, he formed no hasty opinions. And these, when finally arrived at, were apt to be so sensibly grounded they could be maintained.

His family consisted of four children. Mrs. Simmons, his daughter, survived him by many years and far beyond the 15 years that his widow did.

Rev. R. H. Robb, reminiscing, in his day, on the Ellington family, recalled a number of its leading members: "Lewis Duval Ellington, grandson of William Ellington I, through Coke A. Ellington, was converted in one of Rev. J. L. Fowler's meetings in the Cartecay section. Born in Gilmer County April 1846, he died at Glenmore, Ga., May 15, 1927, at the age of 81.

"On Dec. 15, 1872, he married Sarah R. Craigo of Ellijay. She died in 1887. Later he married Lydia S. Stiger of Glenmore. Associated with him in Gilmer County was Rev. B. M. Hipp, who lived for a while on a farm in Mountaintown district but who later became a resident and property owner of Ellijay."

A younger brother of Lewis Duval Ellington was Asbury Fletcher, converted in the same Fowler-conducted meeting. He was married in south Georgia. He dedicated the M. E. Church at Ellijay in 1900. He was a presiding elder in Atlanta. Especially strong and appealing in the pastorate, he served in this capacity six or seven years, also, in Atlanta. He was born April 8, 1851, and died Feb. 20, 1905.

We take a last step on the Ellington family to connect it with the present. Among our citizenship is Willard Ellington, whose father was named Frank Ellington, a son of Coke A. and a brother to William II.

Also with us is James Ellington, son of Horace Ellington and grandson of William Ellington II; Miss Leona Westbrooks, who descended from Rebecca Westbrooks, daughter of Coke A. Ellington.

Elliott

William (Bill) Elliott was a well known cabinet maker. He is said to have helped construct the casket on which rode the only man ever executed in Gilmer to his own death. He was a man of marked physical force as well as skill in his calling. Born Nov. 7, 1849, he died Sept. 19, 1927.

His wife, Martha M., born April 7, 1851, died May 24, 1924.

We recall having seen his own casket, years before his death. He faced the grim task of making it in plenty of time.

People of the early years of this century remember the kindly, agreeable Tom about Ellijay. Deceased long since, he was a brother to William. Walt carried the mail at Ellijay for years. He has been dead about 15 years. He was a son of Tom.

Lee Elliott died last November.

Walt, or Walter, Elliott left three children: Ruth, who married Herman Westmoreland; Helen, who married Jack Jones and now lives at Blue Ridge; a son usually called Junior, who is a State Patrolman, with headquarters at Blue Ridge.

It is believed that not all the Elliotts of Gilmer have been related. For instance, Mat Elliott of Boardtown, who has been long deceased, is still remembered by elderly people of Boardtown. She was a loyal spirit with the sick. The wife of Sam Hughes was her daughter. There may be others not related, perhaps, to the William Elliott connection.

Ellis

A family that was already in the County in 1840 and furnished a soldier of the Revolution deserves special mention. Such is the Ellis clan, Elijah being the first on record. Mary Ellis, who lived with him was probably a close relative.

Jim Ellis, of a later generation, is buried at Berean Baptist church, according to Lawrence L. Stanley, of late years a resident of South Carolina and his great-grandson. We do not know that he was related to the first two persons of the name we have mentioned. Born Dec. 12, 1861, in Buncombe county, North Carolina, he married, the first time, Rachel Harrison. He died at 79.

Sons were Thad, John, Joe, who once lived on Flat creek and married a Powell. A daughter, Caroline, married Jesse Holden. Thad married a Chastain. A son of his was named Joe, the father of Dr. William H. Ellis of Florida. Another son of Thad was Jim; another, Jason; two others being John and Thad Jr.; a daughter, Jane, married a Cochran.

Another daughter of Jim was named Mary, who married Henry Cochran, a veteran of the Union army during the Civil War. He served with his father-in-law, Jim Ellis. Still another daughter, Nancy, married John Oliver. A fourth daughter, Rachel Minerva, married David A. Stanley.

The two Union army recruits, Jim Ellis and Henry Cochran, were in battles in Tennessee. But Ellis, being a minister, was very active in organizing Primitive Baptist churches, also, in Gilmer, Union and Fannin counties, Georgia, and at two or three points in North Carolina. In North Carolina he led the fight to change the name "Hardshell" to the far happier designation "Primitive" for his Baptist group.

Mr. Ellis is said to have organized Shallow Ford church on the Toccoa river; also Macedonia on top of the Blue Ridge, just north of the head waters of Boardtown creek; Stock Hill and Toccoa—all in Fannin county; likewise Buckhorn and another Macedonia, both in Gilmer.

Largely attended debates on denominational differences were a custom of those days. Mr. Ellis entered such a controversy, it is said, with a champion of the Christian (or Campbellite) church. His opponent was named Charley Jones. The two men contested for two days at the Macedonia meeting house which is

near the Jim Young home. Finally, through a subtle turn in phrasing, Jones vanquished Mr. Ellis. The Christians soon took over Macedonia. But the Baptists have established Young's Chapel nearby and seem to be doing well.

Jim Ellis, his first wife having died, married again. His second wife was Nancy Thurmond, native of Gilmer. He then settled in the neighborhood of Berean Baptist church, Coosawattee district. Three children were born to him and this second wife. Elaine was one of these. A daughter named Betty Ann died, in the neighborhood of Berean church, of tuberculosis.

As, all told, Jim Ellis had 10 children, his descendants in Gilmer are still numerous.

Some of the Ellises moved, about 60 years ago, from eastern Gilmer to the Pleasant Hill community in Mountaintown district. One of the Ellises surviving there is Mrs. W. Y. Tankersley. Her great-grandfather, Jimmy Ellis, was already 90 when he settled here in 1900. Her grandfather was Thad Ellis and her father Jim II.

Her family, while still on the east side, became related to the Osborns; also to Dr. J. E. Anderson of Moore, Okla. A grandfather, Elias Clayton, was said to have been a cousin to Gov. Joseph E. Brown, who used to come by and hunt with him.

Erwin

John A. Erwin was a pioneer merchant at Ellijay, but remained in business only about two years. Quite young at the time, he had been raised partly in Habersham county. But his father had moved to Cass and placed the youth in a store before the boy was anything more than a mere lad. He made marked progress in business there. After leaving Ellijay, he again removed to Cassville, where he engaged more extensively in the mercantile business. He worked with T. A. Sullivan, "a fine business man who took great interest in young Erwin."

While Mr. Erwin was living in Cassville, he married the daughter of J. W. Hooper. About 1850 he moved to Cartersville, where he remained until around 1875. He then sold his Cartersville property and removed to a farm in east Tennessee. He is known to have lived, for several years afterward, at this place.

Of fine appearance and intelligence, he was generally referred to as one of the best business men in his section. Trustworthy, a Whig, he was from early boyhood a member of the M. E. Church, South.

Evans

John C. Evans, born Dec. 23, 1845, died May 6, 1901, was a prominent lumber mill operator at Ellijay. He came here from Pennsylvania about 1885. His wife, Sophie H., was born Aug. 3, 1855, and died Oct. 31, 1931.

Their children were Will, Mae, Nell, Hessie (who became the wife of Dr. J. S. Tankersley), Edith, Stratt, Mack, Henry and Charley.

After the death of John C., his family removed from Ellijay to Atlanta, where a number of the descendants have since lived.

Mack, or Matthew Mack, Evans died in Atlanta Sept. 8, 1947, and was buried in West View cemetery there. A native of Ellijay (born in 1888), he was vice president of the Steel Lumber Company of Birmingham, Ala. He was survived by a sister, Mrs. E. A. Hammond, and three brothers, W. E., Thurlow, H. Jack, according to newspaper reports.

The list of the family of J. C., as given at the first of this article, was furnished by dependable people at Ellijay who knew the family. These people did not recall a boy who went by the name of Thurlow.

Robert Evans, of pioneer stock, married Nancy Elvira Mulkey Oct. 29, 1865. He was born Dec. 29, 1844; his wife, Jan. 9, 1847. Descendants were John Lee, M. F., W. L., Louvenia, Rosa Jane, Sara Ann Virginia, Nancy Theodocia, Robert H., Minnie Leona, and another son that died in infancy.

Benjamin Evans early settled on Clear creek—when but a few scattered white settlers had arrived, coming originally from South Carolina, by Hall county, Ga.; thence to Gilmer. Mr. Evans did not live many years after his arrival among us. He left a family consisting of several sons, five of whom lived and died in that neighborhood.

The last three left alive were James, Mark and Bryant. Mark moved to Alabama. The others remained in Gilmer. A member named David was the father of "Uncle Bob" Evans who lived until fairly modern times. David came to Gilmer in 1845, and died at the home of his son Robert. He was born in Henderson county, North Carolina, Nov. 15, 1816. Prior to coming here he had married Nancy Cantrell.

The ancestry of Robert is traced, through David, to Rev. Joseph Evans, for 40 years a minister of the Baptist faith. The wife of Robert died here in 1848. He was married a second time. A daughter of Benjamin married Reuben Fossett. Members of the family, mostly Baptists, are widely scattered.

Some of the descendants of the modern members of the Evans family of northwestern Gilmer and other sections, including Atlanta, belong to the A. C. (Crock) Evans group. His children were I. A., John, Tom, Annie, Jennie, Pearl.

John Evans occupied, until his death, a place known as the Niblow farm in earliest pioneer times in eastern Mountaintown. His sons were Ernest, Leonard; his daughters were Bernice, Mrs. Hoke Edwards, Mrs. Arvil Davis and Mrs. Melvin Sales.

Fleming

William T. Fleming, from South Carolina, was among settlers of long ago at Ellijay. He was a carpenter, and for several years worked at his trade at Ellijay.

While a resident there, his wife, spoken of as "good and amiable," died, leaving several children. He had the sympathies of the people, and many of them showed their sympathy by substantial aid. He later married Miss Kate Ayers, "a lady well suited to such responsibility."

When Fleming came to Ellijay, he was already a member of a Baptist church, and was devoted in his church relations. He was known to walk eight miles to church on Sunday. His fellow worshipers, noting his extraordinary loyalty and faithfulness, came to believe he had a work in the church beyond that of the average layman. He had a like conviction. Soon he was licensed to preach, and commenced a ministerial life that was abundantly successful. He had elements in his character that made him a success. He seemed actuated solely by a desire, in his ministerial capacity, to do good.

Mr. Fleming, many times over, was moderator of the Ellijay Baptist association. He later moved to Gordon county. Late in his life there, when he was much declined in vigor, he met again his old Gilmer friend, B. B. Quillian. At the time, Quillian believed Fleming's days were numbered with fair definiteness. And this proved the case. His wife survived him a while, the children scattered.

A few years ago the name survived in Gilmer, but no relation between the pioneer family and the modern was known to exist.

Foote

This family is represented by few living members. It was intermarried with prominent families such as the early Davis and Teem ones. E. T. (Eugene) was born August 27, 1843 and died April 8, 1913. Mrs. E. T. Foote (born April 10, 1850) died June 28, 1913. Mr. Foote served in the Confederate army, Co. B 4th Georgia Cavalry.

C. H. Foote, believed to be a brother to E. T., was also in the Confederate army. But the name seems to have disappeared from the County.

Fossett

Reuben Fossett lived "up near the church where Mrs. Horatio Gartrell and her daughters used to worship." This was probably in Cartecay district. He was one of the first settlers of his neighborhood, having moved there about 120 years ago. By 1884 he was said to have passed his 70th year. He was a Whig and a Methodist. He often entertained the ministers of his church.

He came from Hall county with his father, who preceded him in death by many years. Mr. Fossett helped Mr. Goodman build his mill on the Cartecay river. He then took further employment with Goodman in helping to supply logs for the Goodman sawmill. He also hauled lumber to Ellijay. His sister married William Tucker, who lived at the mill operated by Mr. Goodman.

Foster

A name well remembered in Gilmer County is that of William H. Foster, familiarly known as Bud, born May 25, 1845, and dying June 29, 1920. A daughter of his married Bob Milton of Ellijay. Mrs. W. H. Foster (Dora) was born July 31, 1865, and died Jan. 27, 1891.

Other members of the fimily were: Marcus J., Jan. 28, 1850—Jan. 1, 1920; Mattie, March 17, 1855—Aug. 28, 1932. Neither Marcus J. nor Mattie was ever married. For years they operated a boarding place at Ellijay and gave good entertainment.

The family is said to have come originally from the Talking Rock community. Some members, Elmo, for example, live in Pickens now, although related to Gilmer Fosters.

Coming to later generations of the family, Mrs. Burd Smith of East Ellijay had the maiden name of Foster. Matilda Foster was, we understand, a sister to Mattie. Other members of the family were and are Mark II, Gus, Alex, and John, who went west.

Fouts

Few details of this family are extant. John Peter Fouts, pioneer of the family, settled on a farm on Town Creek. The place came later to be known as the Ray place. During 1849 to 1850 Mr. Fouts was a justice of the Inferior Court of Gilmer County.

In August 1945, descendants and relatives of Mr. Fouts were listed as Mr. and Mrs. Dan Robins, Jasper, Ala.; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Adams, Jemison, Ala.; and S. G. Fouts, Oak Ridge, Tenn. Members of this family are devoted to the memory of the old home county, and come back from time to time to visit it.

Fowler

James L. Fowler descended from a minister father. As a boy he was inured, as the great Latin poet Horace recalled of his own boyhood, to hard labor on the farm.

Mr. Fowler united with the Georgia Conference. He had little formal education, but carried a keen mind and a masterful personality into all his fields of action. During the Civil War his sympathies were with the Union. He often preached with a pistol in his belt.

In 1865 he assumed full connection with his church and came to Gilmer County. Because of his personal views, he soon quit. But like Elijah from his mountain he returned later, laboring with the M. E. Church. His last days were spent near Lawrenceville. His liberal widow (remarried to a Methodist minister named Cook) several times contributed in a substantial way to her church and its causes. She was a prime mover in erecting Martin's Chapel in Gwinnett county, where James L. Fowler is buried.

As a public speaker and executive in business Mr. Fowler was forceful and effective. But, as to foreseeing the future of a boy he contacted in Dalton, he was sadly lacking. He was often a guest in the Nathaniel P. Harben home there. Mr. Fowler, noticing the dreamy indifference of Nathaniel P. Harben's son Will N. to routine and monotonous tasks and chores, he hoped to rebuke the lad back into reality.

So he said sternly, "Will Harben, you'll never amount to a hill of beans."

Young Harben continued provoking and became a famous novelist.

Frady

John, a North Carolinian, once lived for a while where Mrs. Lou Plemmons lived and died in Boardtown district. But he died on Frady creek farther north, where he was a neighbor of David Sisson and several of his descendants. He expired quite suddenly as if from heart failure while digging up sprouts with a mattock.

This genial, good-natured and charitable family, among whom the writer came to live at the beginning of this century, was once numerous around Buckhorn. But members at present have almost disappeared, consisting, to the writer's knowledge, of a single family near Buckhorn.

We recall Bill, who sang well even on a job. His health was damaged heavily when he was building a chimney for Tom Berry. He fell from a high scaffold.

Also George is remembered with pleasure. He long since removed from Gilmer to a home not far from Canton. At last account he was doing well for a man of his age, for he is around 90. He was a fountain of good humor. I never heard him speak ill of anybody. John II went to Copper Hill long years ago. Jim remained in the old home community until his decease a few years ago.

There was a girl named Althea, who married in Tennessee. Another girl married Rice Key.

These people showed quite a capacity for friendship and seemed always friendly. The family and related families largely made up Buckhorn church for a long period of time.

Freeman

Several persons of the name have lived, first and last, in Gilmer. One of the most active, Henry C., came, like many others, to prospect for mineral wealth.

He was a whiskery member who came about 1879. He remained only about six years, but in that time he made a tremendous impress in the Turniptown community. He came from Cairo, Illinois.

He built a flume (as announced March 5, 1880) that began at Major Pritchett's, six miles up the creek from its confluence with Ellijay river. The flume itself was four miles long. He had what he called a bulkhead on the hill above the Haley Holt home, an area then in woods. To develop his final pressure for water used in his mining operations he used a 10-inch pipe 300 feet long. His search was for gold.

At the nozzle this pipe tapered down to two inches. The force of the water rushing from this would knock the bark from trees and promptly uproot them, people of the time said. The same stream, turned upon a white range bull, bowled him over. Horace Holt said he saw Freeman "pick the teeth" of his sluice boxes, a weekly performance, and get a quart of gold dust. Gold nuggets were kept separate from the dust.

Freeman finally went back North for more capital. While on his mission, he took sick and died. Mr. Freeman was said to have operated Gilmer's first stamp mill, which, after the lull on Turniptown, was taken to the Reece place on the north side of the Cartecay river.

This mill operated by an S-shaped steel wheel that continuously lifted and released iron weights. The released weight fell on gold ore with the force of its own weight and momentum and crushed it for the release of the gold it contained.

Freeman dug three tunnels on Little Turniptown creek. Some of these tunnels remain to this day, impressive reminders of the expense, energy and hope lavished upon mining projects now long suspended and almost forgotten.

When the stamp was being set up at the Reece place, Tom Price, who could neither read nor write and was the butt of frequent jests, sat by and watched the more or less inexperienced crew wearily setting up the machinery. The day was nearly done. But a single bolt or some such gadget remained. Nobody knew how to finish the job.

The men were about to give up the puzzle as hopeless. Somebody suggested they all knock off the job for a month and send up North for a real engineer to come down and finish the job. At that point, Tom Price slid from his seat of rest and vantage and told them how it could be done.

Tom proved to be right—having suddenly assumed the role of consulting engineer. The stamp mill promptly went to work in its new location. And jokesters could not so easily raise a laugh after that by telling that Mr. Price reportedly fenced a pig under his dining table and tossed it feed scraps.

Fullbright

A man named Fullbright was an early settler. Like many other names, this one has long since disappeared. Old settlers used to recall Aaron Fullbright as a "witch doctor," or a man who could eradicate witches' spells that had been cast on animals or people.

Some weird tales have come down from his times. A number of these have been preserved by the author of this History. One recounts a horse was restless, stamping about in his stall and off his feed. The witch doctor recommended that the owner go round the stable three times, looking in at the horse as he passed along each side and end of the stall. Another case was that of a boy in deliriums. He was trying to climb the walls and ceiling. The witch doctor told the father

to go down in a certain deep hollow, clear a spot of ground, then beat to a stub a specified number of switches. The boy recovered, reportedly.

Such stories show, at least, how far we have come.

Garren

David, or "Davy," Garren was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, Dec. 25, 1833. He died Oct. 11, 1909. When he was quite young, he came with his parents to Gilmer County. His formal education was limited to such training as the schools of early Gilmer afforded.

His first wife, to whom he was married July 11, 1857, was Sarah Withrow. She died on the first day of January 1860. His second wife was Louise Milton. Their marriage occurred April 6, 1876. He served two years in the Confederate army. After the war he became a Republican in politics. As early as 1875 he was merchant and postmaster at Ellijay. He was a member of the group assigned, the summer of 1877, the important task of forming a new constitution for the state of Georgia. His contemporaries gave him the reputation of being a man "of great integrity and honesty of conviction." His second wife, born Nov. 24, 1845, died April 25, 1910.

Edgar Garren, a son of Davy Garren by his second wife, still lives in Gilmer (1960).

Gartrell

Horatio Gartrell, usually known as "Raychie," an early settler on Talona creek, was sometimes referred to as "Colonel." He settled "below William Goble." He was one of the few Gilmer settlers of the early days who came from the "middle portion" of the state, which in those days of slow and difficult travel probably didn't mean much over 100 miles or less south.

Previously in prosperous circumstances, he was said to have suffered, prior to his arrival, some severe financial losses. Coming to Gilmer, he spent the rest of his life farming. He had been a man of good advantages, and was well informed on almost any subject. He never joined any church, but was inclined to the Methodist faith.

His oldest son, Taylor Gartrell, was licensed to preach. He began, as a young man, promisingly, preaching well for one of his age. But he died while still quite a young man.

Horatio raised a number of other children, some of whom remained many years among the citizenship of the County after the decease of Mr. Gartrell and his pious wife more than two generations ago. Mrs. Gartrell was described by pioneers as "one of the best of women." Her piety was said to have inspired, she being reported to walk, if it took that, over rough pioneer roads and trails more than three miles to church.

The Whitestone dolomite mines were apparently—at least a few years ago—still in the hands of descendants of the original Gartrell settlers. The old estate apparently embraced the land upon which the whitestone was long ago discovered. The presence of the stone there was known when the railroad was built by the quarries. But profitable mining operations are scarcely half that old.

Only two persons named Gartrell appear in our local telephone book of today. One of these, E. D., lives in Gilmer County on Jasper road. Taylor Gartrell was a brother to the grandfather of E. D. Gus Gartrell, E. D. states, is the name of his father.

The other member of the family is H. C. Gartrell, who lives in Jasper but is prominently identified with the business life of Whitestone.

William Gartrell, formerly prominent in Whitestone business life, died some seven or eight years ago.

Goble

On December 18, 1952, Miss Missouri Pickett offered some data on this family, which facts she must have taken from the records of her own family. The following statements are based on her records.

Cornelius Goble and his spouse came to Gilmer County about 1790. That would place this family, along with the Plemmonses and Sanders clan, as among the earliest white families we know anything about. He married Sarah Teague in 1791 or 1792. To this couple were born the following children on the dates opposite their respective names.

Alec	1793
Corban	1795
Cornelius	1797
Linda	1799
Peggy	1801
Nellie	1803
William	1805

William married Elizabeth Ray in 1839. He is said to have been employed to help remove the Cherokees from Gilmer County. He and his wife are both buried at Talona.

Other Gobles, arriving about 1850, do not seem to have been related to this early family.

Godsey

Bill of the early days, settled on Town creek. He had a son named Dave. D. J. was a Confederate veteran. But we no longer hear the name among our citizenship.

Goodman

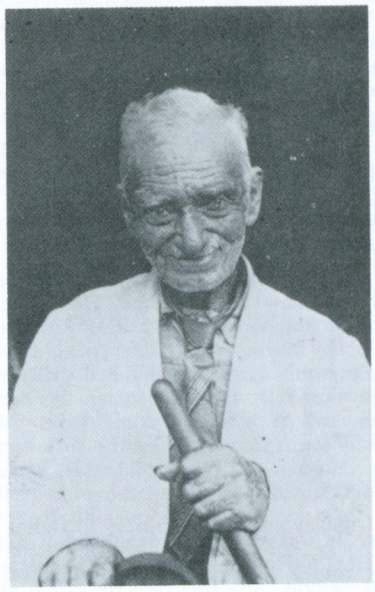
After the first log cabins of Ellijay had been erected, a man named Ben Goodman set up Gilmer's first sawmill and erected the town's first frame building (probably Gilmer Academy on Cemetery hill). Several of the primitive cabins on the site of Ellijay and scattered about the woods comprising and surrounding the original 50-acre "reserve" of the town had been erected by Indians.

The coming of Ben Goodman's mill was, therefore, the beginning of transformation in the style of Gilmer's housing.

Grace

One of the most remarkable of our people was Dow Grace, another native of North Carolina. His paternity is a mystery. He was long a resident of Boardtown, where he said he was troubled by ghosts. Fannin county has a lasting memorial to this simple-thinking, childish-spiritied but gracious natured old man. It has named a small mountain in his honor. By this mountain, now in Fannin county, he appears to have lived with his mother before moving to Boardtown, Gilmer County. His next move seems to have been to Ellijay, probably about

Our Oldest Citizen



LORENZO DOW GRACE

1870. Here he chopped wood and did odd jobs about town for two or three generations. He was married several times, but not always fortunately. At one time he was reduced and lonely and went about town followed from one house to another by a small but faithful dog.

It was in the very nature of Dow Grace to be kind and temperate, which probably explains in part the great age he attained and his remarkable preservation almost to the day of his death. Poised, polite, unselfish, charitable in his judgements, he was an example to many. Although, at the beginning of the War between the States, he is said to have been rejected as too old for army service, in the spring of 1864 he joined the Confederates and saw desperate action around Dalton and southward.

While Dow Grace was exceptionally good-natured, he would not allow people to impose upon him. An acquaintance in Boardtown once asked him to stand in the road and be whipped like a boy of the old-time school days. "Yes, sir, Mr. Holloway, I'll stand," he replied. But when the whipping started, Dow flourished a knife and came near killing his adversary.

On February 12, 1923, Dow Grace left Ellijay, and the same day entered the Confederate Soldiers home in Atlanta. Being here relieved from all responsibility, he found no wood to chop or other incentive to physical exercise such as his old life in Gilmer afforded. In Ellijay, if there was nothing else to do, he often walked about with a broom handle in his hand. In Atlanta he had plenty of food, but not the old appetite; good beds, but lacked the old fatigue that assured sleep. For he had marked natural energy and needed to exert it to the last. His decline soon began.

He was practically illiterate and used interesting old archaic expressions of speech not well understood by the newer generations that had grown up around him. He recalled the "starfall" of 1834, at which time he was a considerable boy. His official birth date at the soldiers home was placed at Oct. 29, 1813. But Jessie I. Jarrett, an intelligent and prominent citizen, knew Mr. Grace back in Buncombe county, North Carolina, before either of them came to Georgia.

He is said to have asserted to contemporaries, "Dow Grace is three years older than I am, and I was born April 9, 1820." That would give Grace a birth date in the spring of 1817. So that, at his death, July 24, 1928, he was more than 111 years old. He was buried in the Confederate cemetery at Marietta. A minor ambition he failed to realize before his death was to come back and visit Ellijay and "see all them people that was so good to me."

From the vantage of the present, Dow Grace lives as a sort of legend. Men like Bill Gudger can recall Dow in his prime. He is recalled as having lived near Albert Sisson and the falls in upper Boardtown creek, where Mr. Sisson operated a mill powered by the creek. While living here he is said to have married a local girl, with whom he reportedly had differences, in one of which she fell to the floor unconscious. Dow took her for dead and deposited her temporarily in the backyard to hide his crime from callers. Sure enough a visitor came, and while he was talking to him the wife recovered and walked in where her husband was entertaining. Once while Mr. Grace lived on the lower slopes of Whisenant mountain, three teen age boys made themselves too free at his house and he threw them, one at a time, over his front fence, telling them to go on home. They went. He was sometimes deputized, it is also asserted, to bring in witnesses to court. He took along a shotgun to guarantee briskness on the return hike. He walked behind, just in case. He could sing "I Am a Roving Irishman," and clown the laughing part by falling and rolling on the floor.

He left no children.

Grady*

Henry W. Grady I, born May 1, 1788, was grandfather of the distinguished Atlanta editor and orator of the same name. He came to Gilmer not later than 1848 and settled in Mountaintown district at a point on the Chatsworth (initially called Henry Grady) highway, some five miles northwest of Ellijay.

The brick house on the right, as one goes west, just beyond the boundary of Ellijay district and occupied by T. W. Dover and family, is near the old Grady home site.

Henry Grady, the orator, was named for the older man.

Among his neighbors—the Sumners, the Gudgers, Gibsons and Davises as well as Osborns—Henry Grady I was known as "the Captain." For tradition had it, he was once a captain under Andrew Jackson, Indian fighter, around 1813 and for several years following. Captain Grady was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina. He had been sheriff of his home county, probably Buncombe.

For he had lived at Hendersonville before Henderson county was cut off from Buncombe. It was rumored he had executed two men, Sneed and Henry, for gambling on the Sabbath—once a capital offense in that state. He seems, also, to have engaged somewhat in the slave trade. The mother of Rev. Julius Pickett knew Grady before either of them left North Carolina.

*B. B. Quillian fails to mention Grady. It appears that settlers who arrived as late as 1845 were apt to be ignored in his reminiscences.

Mr. Grady was already greying when he came to Gilmer county. Far prior to his migration thither he had married Leah King. His first home in Gilmer was the farm now occupied by Roland V. Wimpey on the Chatsworth (or Henry Grady) highway and on which Wimpey's son Billy raised on a single acre of ground, winning a state championship, 181 bushels of corn in 1957. His second residence was half a mile east of that point across a low gap eastward toward Ellijay. Here he maintained a small store and a post office called Mountaintown, which has been suspended because of rural mail service. A young man, Andrew Jackson West, was in business with him. West married Leah King Osborn, a granddaughter of Henry Grady I, who seems to have been a native of Gilmer.

William Ellington II was of the opinion the Grady store was stocked from an Athens mercantile place operated by William S. Grady, father of the younger Henry W. Grady (or Henry W. II). In this business young West was interested also.

Thomas Gibson, father of William Gibson of this County was also acquainted with Henry Grady I before either of them removed from North Carolina thither. William Gibson, on a May day, pointed out to the writer, among the ripe wild strawberries, the site of an ancient little school house just north of the second home of Henry Grady I. The house looked down upon the junction of the Chatsworth road and the East Mountaintown road. Here, Mr. Gibson stated, Henry Grady II. as a boy, attended school upon one occasion several months in succession, this being while he was on an extended visit to his grandfather.

After Mr. Grady's shift of residence and the establishment of his new home and business, he sold his old home to Sol Sumner, neighbor and grandfather of Frank N. Sumner, who now lives between the Grady places of residence. In those days an old stage road ran from Dahlonega, by way of Ellijay, to Dalton.

This road passed between the Grady home and the store, the store being just north of it and the home opposite, on the south side. The home was about where the modern highway is, as the road, at this point, went a little farther north and west in the old days. A portion of the old stage road may be seen yet along here.

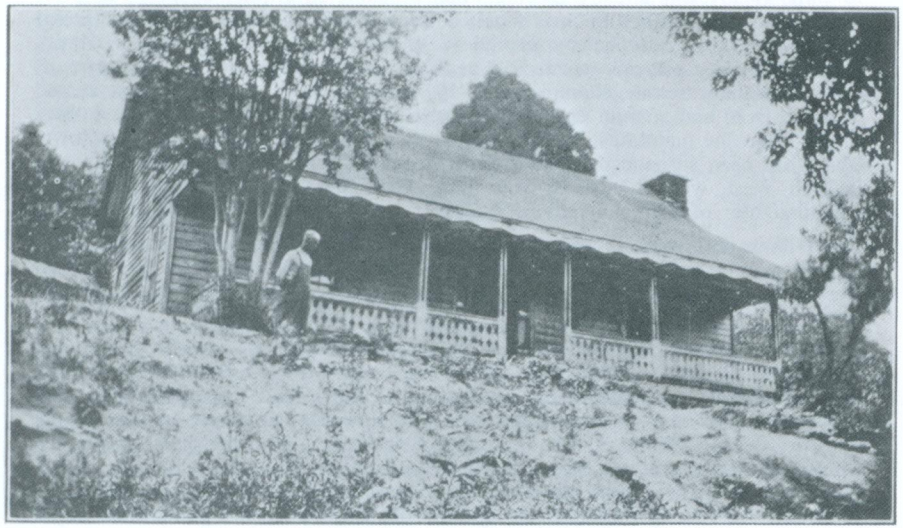
Mr. Grady built, near the store, a small extra structure about 16 by 16 feet. This little house was especially for his personal use. Old neighbors said he sometimes, while tending to the store, slept in this. A small spring branch passes through the premises, and no doubt the head of this was the Grady water supply.

Rev. Julius Pickett, who knew Henry Grady I, favored the view Henry Grady II was a nephew of Henry Grady I. But his opinion was not supported by neighbors, who almost solidly supported the view the younger man was a grandson—a view, we believe, now fully established by extensive research. A professor at Emory University has done that.

Henry Grady II was once, for a week, the guest of S. A. Plemmons while Mr. Plemmons occupied the house vacated by Henry Grady I when he moved toward Ellijay. This house is said to have stood for a long time afterward. Having come to visit his grandfather, the younger Grady chose this as a convenient boarding place. Such visits appear to have been in the nature of business trips, outings, or both.

William Gibson asserted Henry Grady II really made his home with Andy West—for at least a portion of his time.

The old Grady home, with three chimneys and rooms enough for what was considered in those days sufficient comfort and convenience no longer stands. In 1874 Rev. Julius Pickett bought the Grady store and moved it a mile northwest



This Old Home of Henry Grady I was still Standing a Few Years ago.

Picture was made by the Author in 1925.

onto the farm occupied (until the 1870s) by John E. Davis. He re-erected it close to the road in front of his home. It, too, has vanished. Some of the Grady kitchen, after the death of the old man, was removed to a point half a mile nearer Ellijay. About 1880 Jim Griggs moved the main house down a small creek southward two or three miles, where it was still standing about 1930 in fair repair, and was then occupied by a son and a daughter of Jim Griggs.

Of the descendants of Captain Grady one was Harriet Sammons. She was the oldest daughter, and married Jonathon Osborn, member of one of the most prominent and highly respected families of the County. Mr. Osborn left Gilmer and removed to Texas. George and Henry Osborn, both deceased many years ago, were issue of this union.

Sarah, another daughter, married a man named Niblo or Neblo, who once lived on the John Evans place, first house after one turns off and northward from the Chatsworth road and follows the East Mountaintown road. She buried a daughter in the family cemetery of Thomas Plemmons near two miles northwest across Little Mountaintown creek. About 1875 she removed to Tennessee, where she reportedly survived her husband.

William S. Grady, having removed from North Carolina to Athens, Ga. about 1846, married a Miss Gartrell of Athens. They became the parents of Martha, William S. Jr. and the noted Henry Woodfin, born May 24, 1850. Henry W., having early chosen journalism, distinguished himself in both that field and in oratory. He spread goodwill; all his addresses showed high courage and were

well flavored with optimism. He has been a great inspiration as well as a proud tradition in his native land. He died in Atlanta Dec. 23, 1889. His monument still stands on downtown Marietta street there.

Still other children of Captain Grady were: John, who married elsewhere and "died down in Georgia"; Elizabeth, who married a Walker back in North Carolina and never came to Georgia except on rare visits.

Nearly all the personal belongings of Capt. Grady have vanished with the years. No picture of him survives. The influence of his liberal-thought books was questioned by more conventional-thinking neighbors, as Mr. Grady's putative universalist views on religion were not relished by them. Some suspected the old man of pure atheism, but it seems more likely he was merely universalist, a religious conviction evidently considered queer and dangerous among his Baptist acquaintance about. His conduct was also of the liberal brand.

During part of his stay of some 30 years in Gilmer, a neighbor woman named Nancy, or Nance, Craig was his housekeeper. It seems from complete old records of Mountaintown Baptist church this woman was a member of that congregation, which questioned her on the propriety of remaining in such a relation. The record reads: "September 6, 1848. Sister Nancey Craige excluded for living with a man to whom she is not married, since she says she expects to continue with him."

Tom Sumner once told the writer, "I might have had Capt. Grady's books myself, but my mother (Mrs. Sol Sumner I) forbade it. I think suspicious neighbors must have finally burnt them."

After the death of Capt. Grady, Mrs. Amanda Gudger, mother of the living Bill Gudger, who lived a fraction of a mile farther down the road toward Ellijay, received a request from the Grady family for his Bible, which had been saved. Mrs. Gudger, as a neighborly act, customary in those and later days, had helped to nurse Capt. Grady during his last illness. This was done without thought of compensation. Capt. Grady had presented her the Bible, which is now at Emory University. It contains valuable data on the Grady clan.

While Capt. Grady did not live strictly apart from his neighbors, he was an object of some curiosity and speculation among them. Usually neat of dress, he often wore a tall beaver hat, after a custom of the times. Neighbors referred to it as a churn hat. Somewhat smallish and slightly stooped of figure, he had blue eyes and his hair was a dark shade of brown. He seems to have been Irish in origin, the name being, of course, frequently spelt O'Grady. He was sober, reputed to be, in general, "good and kind to everybody."

Tom Sumner, who was 17 when Capt. Grady died, used to go to mill for him (probably to the mill of Absalom Pence on Mountaintown creek), using a sled after the pioneer style to transport his grain and grist to and from the mill. While Grady went ahead of Tom—plowboy for the old man—and set up a tall stick, the youth, sighting the stick between the hames of his horse, plowed toward it. He showed the boy how to pick a chicken clean by promptly, upon killing it, dipping it into a stream of cold water, dispensing with the usual immersion in hot.

After Grady's health declined and all his children and grandchildren had left him, he employed his neighbor, Sol Sumner, to tend to much of his business. He gradually sold off his property, retaining a room of his house for himself. and in this room he died July 19, 1879.

Dave Sumner, another son of Sol Sumner, was among those who cared for Henry Grady I during his last illness. He also assisted Sam Osborn, Taylor Crawford and Caijah Allen to bury him. Although he declared to Amanda

Gudger "the longer I live the more confirmed I am in my religious views," he received visits during his last illness from Joe Chastain, Nicholas Osborn and his two sons, Sam and Fate—all of whom were Baptist preachers.

After his decease, neighbors came together after another pioneer custom and made him a casket and bore him to his last resting place. In the little funeral party was Mrs. William (Sumner) Gibson, then 16 years of age. His dust reposes in Mountaintown Baptist Church cemetery. His grave is unmarked but can still be located. It has, since this was written, received an uninscribed marker.

We add facts as recorded in the Henry Grady I Bible.

Leah King Grady, born March 17, 1796, died Nov. 10, 1829.

John W. Grady, born Dec. 6, 1813, died Dec. 23, 1889.

Harriet Sammons Grady, born May 26, 1815, died Jan. 2. 1902.

Sarah Morgan Grady, born Nov. 1, 1818.

William Sammons Grady, born June 10, 1821, died Oct. 21, 1864.

Elizabeth Ann Grady, born Oct. 31, 1823, died Oct. 31, 1861.

Henry Woodfin Grady, according to this record, was born May 24, 1850.

1850

William Sammons Grady II was born Sept. 30, 1851.

Martha Nicholson Grady was born Sept. 30, 1855.

Annie King Grady was born Feb. 10, 1857.

Agnes Louisa Grady was born March 7, 1843.

Henry C. Grady was born June 18, 1844.

William G. Grady was born Feb. 24, 1848.

Liiiian D. Grady was born Feb. 20, 1855.

Jesse B. Grady was born Feb. 9, 1857.

Some marriages of the Grady family are also recorded in the same Bible:

John W. Grady married Dec. 31, 1840.

Harriet Sammons Grady married Jan. 2, 1830.

William G. Grady married Ann Gartrell.

Sarah Morgan Grady married a Mr. Niblow.

Elizabeth Ann Grady married William Walker, who was born in August 1823.

Names of more Walkers, presumably children of Elizabeth Ann (Grady) Walker, with dates of their birth:

Caroline A., Dec. 13, 1850.

Helen Louisa, Feb. 18, 1852.

Jesse, June 9, 1853.

Harriet Vergent, Feb. 3, 1859.

Coming to far more recent dates: decendants of the pioneer Henry Grady still live in the Atlanta area. A great-grandson, some years deceased, was president of the Southern Engraving Company, Atlanta. His wife died later, leaving survivors, Henry W. Grady III, and two grandsons, Robert Shedden Grady and Henry W. Grady IV.

The living Eugene Black, former president of the World bank, is a great grandson of Henry Grady I.

Green

Few people of this name have lived in the County. Thomas, born Nov. 6, 1780, died May 15, 1857. E. Spencer Green, long merchant and postmaster at Cherry Log, has left descendants, several of whom live in Atlanta, where his widow survives.

Greer

Moses Greer, pioneer, came to the County from Greenville district, South Carolina, in the winter of 1834. He bought a place near Ellijay and settled upon it. This property was owned and occupied by Mrs. Craigo in 1881. It is across the road from the Jack Williams home, now known as the East Ellijay area.

Having remained here several years, he disposed of his property and moved to Ellijay. This time he settled upon a place owned, 60 or more years ago, by Mrs. L. M. Greer, and still stands opposite the J. C. Allen house and near the Gilmer courthouse. There he remained until his death.

Mr. Greer was a carpenter and millwright, and followed his trade most of his life. He was clerk of the superior court for six years. For some eight years he was tax collector, and was also the first ordinary ever elected. He was also postmaster of Ellijay. He was a member of Ellijay city council several times. He was richly informed on general knowledge. He was interested in minerals and slates, and declared our slate resources to be promising.

He is said to have proven a satisfactory official and to have maintained a strong hold on the affections of his people, whose confidence in him was marked. He has been described as having much stability of character, not to be readily swerved from his principles. Strong of common sense, said his contemporaries, he was "able to discern the right and then to maintain it."

While he was reportedly an excellent mechanic and had studied the mechanical arts, he was also informed on political affairs, both state and national. A Whig of the old line, he loved good government. Having had a close up observation of the operations of nullification in South Carolina, he came to have no sympathy for the movement. And when he saw a war between the states being fomented by "hotheads in the South and fanatics in the North," and later actually precipitated, "plunging our fair land into fratricidal strife and bloodshed," Greer actually wept with personal heartbreak.

He seemed to foresee the appalling misery and ruin the struggle would entail. During the struggle (till his death in July 1864) he followed the fateful events with all eagerness and did what he could to alleviate the suffering women and children of the country.

Greer, in the circle of his intimate family relationships, had the same reputation. He scorned to impose senseless burdens upon his wife and rejected the idea of making chattel and drudges of his children. He raised a family of six children—three sons and three daughters. Two of the sons and a daughter moved west after the close of the War Between the States. Around 75 years ago the rest of the family remained in the County.

L. M. Greer was the oldest son of Moses Greer, whom he was said much to resemble. During this period of two generations ago he was clerk of the court and one time postmaster. He died April 9, 1896.

Thomas F. Greer was born April 27, 1841. In May 1861 he enlisted in the 11th Georgia Regiment (CSA). He later became a captain in the army. He was twice wounded and once imprisoned. In 1865 he was admitted to the bar. He was in turn county solicitor, judge of the county court, state senator, solicitor general of the Blue Ridge Circuit. He died October 1, 1919.

Eva M., born December 23, 1827, died April 21, 1896.

Mamie, wife of B. G. (Burd) Greer, was born April 27, 1878, and died January 20, 1911.

Burdine C., born in 1872, died in 1928.

Moses C., son of L. M., was born July 26, 1860, and died November 1, 1926. He was brother to the well remembered Frank Greer of Ellijay, whose funeral occurred at Ellijay July 7, 1961.

Frances, wife of Moses Greer, died March 7, 1872.

Mag Greer was the second wife of Levi Manning Greer. Born December 5, 1873, she died November 31, 1914.

Griffith

Stephen Griffeth (or Griffith) was a son of Benjamin. Upon the death of his father in 1853, he became county surveyor, holding the position until he left the County. He remained here until Civil War days.

While Mr. Griffith, an uncompromising Whig* did not venture much into politics, he always had a ready smile and cheery word for every one. His friends remembered his hearty laughs and envied a community with so fine a citizen, contemporaries said. And when he moved to Walker county, Ala., during the Civil War, he was greatly missed by the County at large. His church, which was Baptist, and to which he gave with a liberal hand, especially felt the blow of his removal. He lived prosperously in his new home. "He had the confidence of Gilmer when he left it."

John W. was a younger brother of Stephen. He has been described as "one of the finest looking young men of the County." His good sense fully matched his appearance. He had natural ability and made himself a community asset. He was once elected sheriff of the County. He was also a Whig in politics.

When Capt. William E. Derrick formed a company of cavalry to assist in carrying the Indians from this section, young Griffith was elected second lieutenant, and made a faithful officer. For several years afterward he was one of the justices of the inferior court. After the war between the states was over, John W. Griffith removed to Alabama.

Guess

About 74 years ago Bill Guess lived on Bushy Head road near the foot of Bushy Head mountain. Within recent years people of this name lived in Mountaintown district. He or his people are believed to have operated a grist mill at the present Weeping Willow Falls.

Guthrie

This pioneer name is variously spelt Guttery, Guthrey and, modernly, Guthrie. Thomas was our first elected coroner. He was described as "an old bachelor," who for many years lived with Esquire Griffith. He lived but a few years after the organization of the County. The name survives in Fannin county, where Oscar Guthrie was well known. He had a brother named Arthur, and his son is now County School Superintendent.

*Gilmer County, during the existence of the old Whig party, was largely Democratic. The Whigs were so far in the minority that they had no particular organization, usually lacking a leader.

Hall

The second white family to settle in Gilmer County was named Hall. Moody Hall, who settled near Talking Rock in 1819, was our first teacher, as described more fully in connection with Tal-loe-ney mission.

Other people of the name lived about Ellijay in pioneer days. One of these was Alf. Tommy once lived at the Mat Elliott (later Woodall) place across the valley west of Luke Whitaker's home in Boardtown district.

In more modern days, a number of people of the name have lived in the Ellijay area. Many remember Charley, who lived until 1937. John, a son of his, still lives in the community. He has sons, Frank, Fred, Bill, John Jr., Tom, George; and two daughters, Inez and Mary, both of whom are married and citizens of Ellijay.

Hallford

The Hallfords always spell the name as we give it. Bradley arrived in the spring of 1847. He was robust and hearty, with a fine sense of humor and a saving philosophy in spite of the fact that the Civil War found him with a growing family.

He came to Gilmer with David Sisson, his father-in-law. He and the Sissons settled on the Os Miller place on Boardtown. Mrs. Hallford was a sister of Ira Sisson, distinguished in Gilmer as a musician. He played the fiddle so well that people still speak of him with much appreciation. A son of his named David Pearson died, the summer of 1960, in Floyd county at the age of 93.

The Hallfords were said to have been of Protestant Irish origin.

The first Mrs. Bradley Hallford was Sarah Sisson. To this couple had been born, three months before they migrated to Gilmer, a daughter. This baby became Mrs. Nancy Sluder, wife of John Sluder, prominent and upright leader of Cash's Valley, Boardtown district. She died at Tellico Plains, Tenn., in 1934 at the age of 87.

Bradley Hallford left relatives in Habersham: Sarah, a sister; Amos, a brother; Betty, another sister. These people never removed to Gilmer. His father, John Hallford, is buried eight miles east of Demorest, Ga. His second wife, whom he married after he came to Gilmer was Elizabeth Sisson, another daughter of David Sisson.

Both the Hallfords and Sissons have a genius for religion. Ministers are frequent in the family. The personalities of both the men and women often show unusual graciousness and tone of speech and conduct. "Big Bill" was a pioneer brother to Bradley. He was a pioneer exhorter. He was not called "big" on account of any physical characteristic but to distinguish him from a nephew named William, who was likewise a minister.

Big Bill was a camp preacher during the grading of the Marietta and North Georgia Railroad through the County. It was said to have been the duty of the County, through its grand jury, to select ministers for this purpose, and Big Bill was among selectees.

A son of Bradley Hallford, named David, it is said, was killed by a drunken man at Buckhorn. His second wife, Elizabeth, died on or near April 7, 1873. He subsequently married a third time to a widow who had previously been the wife of one of the pioneer Pattersons, one of her sons being John. Bradley Hallford died March 25, 1885, at the age of 64. His third wife survived him by about 12 years.

Both big and little Bill Hallford married daughters of Mont Sharp, pioneer teacher and farmer and religionist of the upper districts.

Harris

Hiram Harris came from North Carolina about 115 years ago and bought land near the Goodman mill and settled upon it. He remained there until his death about 1874. Mr. Harris knew the trade of bricklaying, but spent most of his time on his farm.

Informed on main subjects and events, he was said to have been fairly educated and extensively read. He had a peculiar love of ancient history, which fact marked him as something of an antiquarian. He read much in the Bible but reserved to himself conclusions that resulted from such examination.

"He was a good neighbor, a kind parent and a great friend of education, wishing to see both educational institutions and the church prosper." During his last illness he was composed and calm, and assured his friends and family that he was ready to meet whatever the future held in store.

Capt. Frank Harris, a prominent member of this family, seems to have long lived in Cherry Log district. He received, during the Civil War, wounds from which he never fully recovered. Shot in the mouth, palate and perhaps beyond that, he lived on with little hope of being again the man he was when he entered the war. The writer can recall seeing him when his head and beard were of a snowy whiteness.

He raised two sons of whom the author has knowledge, Bob and Tobe. Bob married Mary Hice. He died about 1894. Tobe lived much longer. Bob was the father of George W. Harris of College Park, of which city he was mayor at the time of his death some 18 years ago. Emma, a daughter, is the widow of Rube Young of Ellijay.

Mrs. Chris Plemmons of Boardtown is a daughter of Tobe Harris. Col. Joe Jenkins, former president of G. M. A. at Milledgeville, is a grandson, on his maternal side, of Capt. Frank Harris of Gilmer County.

Head

Rev. Wilburn Head entered Gilmer County from Cherokee, settling in Coosawattee district. A daughter of his married Jack Hensley. A son, also called Wilburn, born in Gilmer, was an evangelist for the Baptists of Georgia and was active in that capacity for a number of years. He also served in the Baptist pastorate. He died about 17 years ago.

Randall W. Head of Town Creek was a son of John B. Head of Paulding county. John B. died three years ago. But his widow survives, and visits her son R. W., recently deceased, in Gilmer. Randall was a third cousin to the evangelist, R. W. A Rev. C. O. Head recently died at Jasper, Ga. His widow soon followed him in death.

Hefner

The first member of this family arrived here in an oxcart from North Carolina in 1873.* This was Johnny R., born in 1861, bound for Alabama. But he abruptly gave up that idea and settled in Pickens county near Blaine. Some people say he occupied, at least at one time, the Tin Allen place.

The father of Johnny R., who brought him to Georgia, was also named John.

Johnny R. subsequently moved into Gilmer County, settling on the place now occupied by Ben Jess Logan out several miles west of Ellijay on the Tails Creek road. He had sons, Isaac, Willard, Jesse, Lester, Kemuel, and Homer, who was born in Gilmer County.

In 1909 Johnny R. Hefner, who had become a Baptist minister, moved to Oklahoma. But he died there Dec. 9, 1909, a few days after he arrived. The rest of the family (with the exception of one boy) returned to Gilmer.

During 1940, 1941 and 1942 Homer carried the mail into the Tails Creek area. For a number of years he was sheriff of Gilmer County, his services in that capacity terminating with the close of 1960.

The family of Homer consists of sons, Harold, James, Homer Jr., and one daughter, Elsie, now deceased. Harold is chairman of our board of commissioners. Homer Jr. is a teacher in our high school.

Hice

Pioneer members of this family first settled far south next to Pickens county but the name seems to have disappeared from that section. Others long remained in that section of Fannin county known as Fightingtown. Waitzel (or Witzel) was long a resident of Cherry Log district.

Before the close of the last century George Hice removed from Fannin county into Gilmer. He was related to Waitzel. Bud was a son of Waitzel. Charley Hice, presently living on the old Cal Searcey place just south of Cherry Log, is among the quality men of the County. Among his children are to be found some of the most intellectual of our younger generation.

Arthur Stewart's wife was a Miss Hice. And the memory of Bud Hice is honored among the neighbors among whom he lived in Cherry Log district. Mary Hice (Harris), sister of Charley, married Albert G. Ward. She first married Robert Harris. Another sister of Charley's was Ellen, who married Pinckney Chapman of Boardtown.

Hill

William Franklin Hill was born near Asheville, Buncombe county, North Carolina, July 5, 1834. His father (born 1799) was also named William. The father was from Rutherford county, North Carolina, originally, and died in 1883. His mother, Martha DeBord Hill, died in 1885.

William F. Hill was but 10 years of age when he came to Gilmer with his parents and settled on a farm in Mountaintown district. He and 12 brothers and sisters grew up in pioneer conditions. He eagerly appropriated such educational advantages as the times afforded.

At the age of 17 he began teaching school. At other times he farmed. In May 1862 he entered the Confederate army, enlisting as a private 65th Georgia Regiment Infantry, commanded by Col. G. W. Foster. His regiment was attached to Jackson's brigade, in Hardee's corps. He participated in Kennesaw Mountain,

*We question this date. A member of the family was reported present when Mountaintown Baptist Church was organized in 1840. At least that family came much nearer 1833.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN HILL

Faithful and efficient public servant, soldier, teacher among his people, and steadfast in friendship.

Dallas, Jonesboro battles and the siege of Atlanta. He fought at Franklin, Tenn., and took part in the overwhelming discomfiture at Nashville. He was surrendered with Gen. Joe Johnston near Greensboro, N. C., on April 26, 1865.

Upon his return home, Mr. Hill engaged in his former work of teaching and farming. In 1877 he was elected to the office of school commissioner. In this capacity he gave such eminent satisfaction and service of such a high order that he and his records, policies and personality have become a tradition and an inspiration. It took men of his type and caliber to pull us through reconstruction, so called.

On Jan. 11, 1857, his marriage occurred. His bride was Miss Ann Osborn, daughter of Rev. N. R. Osborn. Five children were born to the couple: Margaret C. (Searcey), John Robert, Joseph Lee, Edward, Mary Ann.

William F. Hill was a Baptist, broad, charitable in his views, kind of nature, gracious and attractive to childhood, yet firm and progressive, efficient, aspiring—in numerous respects a highly desirable type of citizenship.

Seaborn Hill (Jan. 13, 1829—Dec. 7, 1902) was a brother to William F. Hill. Descendants were Mag (married Jess Davenport), Sara, Fannie, Wilburn.

Among modern Hills, J. M. (Jim) is widely known and extensively related in the Gilmer of today. His sons are Leonard, Robert, Kenneth, Felton and Henry. Homer Hill is related to this family. He has sons, Willard and Bobby. Descendants of John Hill are Glenn and Sam.

Ed Hill of Ellijay, formerly of Pleasant Hill community, Mountaintown, is a brother to John Hill just mentioned. He has two sons (one in North Carolina and the other in Alabama); also two daughters.

Some Hills went to Wayne county and almost vanished from our local records. Many Gilmer relatives, like James Parks, whose mother was a sister of William Hill, could be mentioned in connection with the names of those that actually bear the name.

Hipp

B. M. Hipp has been noted elsewhere as among the preachers of the "middle period," that hard, lean time succeeding the Civil War. He also once taught in our public schools. Mrs. B. M. Hipp died April 4, 1879. John W., a son of theirs, was born March 16, 1848, and died June 23, 1931.

Oscar Hipp, now several years deceased, was a grandson of Rev. B. M. His widow still maintains a residence in Ellijay, though spending considerable time in Florida, where her two children, Kenneth and Dorothy, live. We recall Juan Hipp as an Ellijay resident.

Other people of this name, but slight if any relationship to the B. M. Hipp descendants, lived (or their ancestry resided) on the east side of the County. Among these were J. B., long a resident of Ellijay, where his widow and their daughter, Miss Josephine Hipp, lives at present.

Holden

Most of the Gilmer people named Holden descended from pioneer twin brothers, Ozias and Uriah, said to have reached the part of the Cherokee country, that became Gilmer, in the late 1820s. A descendant of Uriah (who had settled in Tickanetley) was a son named John, already in the ministry in 1854.

Uriah married, first, Lydia Bearden. Among descendants of this couple were Richard, Cicero, Andrew Jackson. Some of the younger generations still live in Gilmer. Dorsey makes his home in Atlanta.

Ozias settled in Cartecay district in 1831. His home occupied a site overlooking the valley of the Cartecay river, and was the second house from the river toward Ellijay. Nine children were born to Ozias and his wife. Among these were James L., Mary (Holt), John Holden of Dawson county; Robert A., father of Lester Holden, B. S. Holden and Fletcher Holden, once a teacher in Gilmer County; Vada (Fendley); and of these we shall have more to say presently.

Ozias Holden came from Hall county, settling across the Cartecay river from John Addington. These two families are said to have reached Gilmer the same year. On July 16, 1842, he joined the Ebenezer Baptist church. He lived at this location until after the War Between the States. Mr. Holden was widely esteemed for his hospitality about his home.

His first wife died several years prior to the Civil War. Some years later he married a Mrs. Neal, who was reported to have been a wife of excellent quality. She survived her husband by many years. Her youngest son Robert was also among survivors.

Willard C. Holden, son of John Holden of Diamond district, descended from Uriah Holden. Willard died April 23, 1960.

Mrs. W. B. James, maiden name Holden, has written West and obtained some striking facts about related families who left Gilmer County and removed to Willow Springs, Missouri, about 1869.

Among those who migrated was Mrs. Lavada (Holden) Findley, oldest of Ozias Holden's daughters, born in Cartecay district in 1828. She had married Rev. W. W. Fendley prior to going away.

Her party finally consisted of eleven families in 20 wagons, not counting others on horseback. Some of the experiences of this hardy group, on their westward trek, are related in an old letter written back from Missouri more than 90 years ago. This letter was sent to a sister, as disclosed in its contents, and lay forgotten in an old chest for generations in Cartecay district.

Thanks to Mrs. James and her daughter, Miss Frances James, we are able to quote this dramatic account in full.

April 24th, 1870
Sim Valley
Howell County, Missouri

To Mary D. Holt
Dear Sister,

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am still in the land of the living, though many miles from you. Sis, I traveled 60 days. I crossed mountains, hills, rocks, large rivers, creeks, and branches. I came through towns and cities. I had snow, rain, hail, and sleet more or less all the way here.

I camped one week in this state on ..... Creek. It rained on us all the time we stayed there. Water and mud were shoe-mouth deep. I came on to Mr. Williams' in this State. I stayed in my tent three days in the rain and snow. We were aiming to go to the Indian Nation or to Nebraska. We thought we would stop till spring, so Mr. Findley looked about and got a school house. We started to it through the snow, eight miles. There we stayed four weeks. Mr. Findley found a place that suited him. He went and bought it. He was gone two weeks. Sis, I slept and ate on the ground and floor over three months.

Sis, I cannot tell you much about the country. I have been here four months. I have not been out of sight of my house but one time since I have been here. From what I can see and learn, the land is good and productive as anyone need to want. It lies in hills and valleys. The hills are rocky and covered with grass and black jack. There is some other timber.

The valleys are the good land. Running water is scarce here. There are several good springs at the head of this valley.

I came through Tennessee, Kentucky and Illinois to Howell County in this State. I think I like here better than any place I have seen since I left Georgia. When I first got here, I thought it was no place for me. I think I will be satisfied if we can have our health.

People look well here, and they tell us it is healthy here. We have good well water. It washes well. I don't think I will lack for water. Some have to haul water in summer here. They are careless about their wells in this country. They will dig one and throw some poles over it and let it stand for years. There is a better chance to get a good home here than in Georgia. Land is cheaper and chance to enter or homestead.

Sis, our place is bad out of fix. There is a heap of work to do. The land is not much to clear; shrub off the largest bushes and hitch two or three yoke of oxen to a large plow and tear it all to smash. We have a good chance for a crop. It was dry here last year. The drought was from Georgia here.

Sis, I want you to write to me what kind of weather you had on Saturday before Easter Sunday. It snowed all day here and was very cold. Our fruit is all killed here.

Sis, I must tell something about my children. I have got a pretty baby as you ever saw. It is seven weeks old. Its name is Alfred Webb. The rest are all

well and growing fast. Sam has grown and is as well as I ever saw him at this season of the year. They send you howdy. I am not very stout, though improving.

Sis, I want you to read this letter to all the rest of my brothers and sisters. I want you all to go to old Ebenezer to meeting and visit those graves. Look at my baby's for me, as I never saw it. I never shall forget that place. Notice my little cedars and write to me how they all look.

Ann, I want you and Jim to write. John, you and Lou write. Bob, I want you to write how you are getting along, and what you have done with the Neals. Tell Taylor and Columbus to write. Now don't fail. It is all the pleasure I ever expect to enjoy in this life with any of you without a mere accident. Sis, read it to all the connections on Ticanetly. I want them all to write. Give me all the news of your country. Give my love to all inquiring friends. Now Sis, I want you and John to write. Don't fail. I have not heard a word from you since I left.

So I close. Farewell to Mary D. Holt and John.

Lavada M. Findley

John Holt, Esq.
Dear Brother and Sister,

This leaves us all well; hope you all are the same. This is Vady's letter. You will have enough to do to read it. I want you all to write. Give my love to all inquiring friends. Tell them I am well satisfied with my new country. I have a good chance for a crop of corn. Write soon and often. Tell all the connections to write.

Your brother and sister till death. Farewell.

Rev. W. W. Findley
Lavada M. F.

Holloway

We hear of the Holloways in Gilmer years before the Indians were removed. Ruby Holloway married a Cherokee and lived near the present Mrs. Sarah Plemmons Holt home, in Cherry Log district.

About the close of the Civil War Steve Holloway lived where the George Holloway home still stands. Some intermarriage of the family with Boardtown Sissons occurred. Haskin and Bill and their descendants are among those who also lived in the same section.

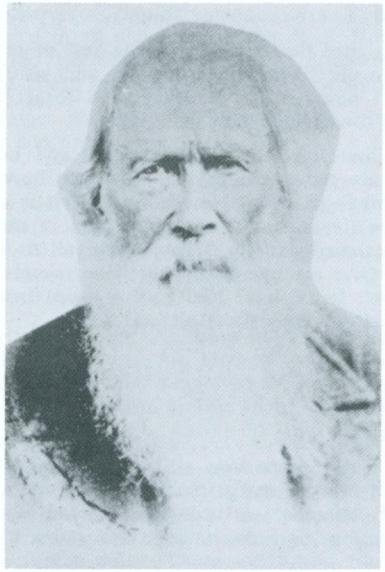
Two members of this family, J. R., W. A., were once county teachers. Warner Holloway, son of George, has served as superintendent of modern Gilmer County high school.

Joe Pink, his mother and a number of other relatives and descendants were long residents of East Ellijay. J. P. is friendly, and a genius in construction. He puts art and finish into his work.

Holt

The original head of the Holt clan was named Elijah, but it is doubtful if he ever came to Gilmer. The first settler here appears to have been Larkin, who arrived in the fall of 1833 from Habersham county.

From Larkin descended Osborn (or Ausborn), Seaborn, Elijah II, and Bill. Osborn had many descendants. He was twice married. Jim, John and Sam and three girls were among his children.



OSBORN (or AUSBORN) HOLT

Prominent in Early Developments around White Path. One authority says he was born in 1809, and did not arrive in Gilmer until 1838.

Bill Holt, about Civil War days, lived on the George Watkins (later the Garren, then Thurmond) place, Boardtown. Mr. Holt later moved west. He could have sold out to Jim Cody.

Larkin Holt, pioneer, bought and settled the place on the Cartecay river where the Pettits lived during the 1880s, and still partly occupied by members of the family. After living here for some four years, he sold his land to Henry Pettit of North Carolina.

Mr. Holt then moved to lower Turniptown, Ellijay district, remaining here several years. He finally moved farther north into Cherry Log district. He built a home by the old Morganton road a little way south of Cherry Log Baptist meeting house. The old house stood till a few years ago and was among the last of pioneer houses to vanish.

Described as an honest, truthful, punctual man—reliable in all his promises— "he had slight use for those whose honor was not to be counted upon; but, for the truthful and trustworthy, his respect was steadfast." He was ready to assist friends, and always had the means.

He raised a family of boys and girls who remembered well the counsel of their parents on points of honor and ethics. Among these were Osborn and Seaborn, both esteemed and punctual neighbors, "like father like sons." Elijah and Bill were other brothers.

Osborn, a Democrat, without church affiliation, moved to Gilmer with his father. A short time prior to his arrival he had married Miss Hannah E. Patterson. A few years after her arrival here, however, she died, leaving several children. Among these were James, John, Samuel P., Mary (married a Sawyer), Sarah (married Albert Ward), Elizabeth (who was six at the time of her father's second marriage) married Gus Smith.

The second wife was Miss Margaret Wilson of North Carolina, referred to by Quillian as "amiable and intelligent." Mr. Holt was congratulated generally upon the excellent qualities of his spouse. And time also confirmed the wisdom of his choice.

Osborn Holt's children by this wife were: Jasper Lorenzo (born 1845); Hines, born 1847, was killed in the War between the States; Robert Emmett, born 1849. Quite a number of our long-lived people can remember Bob, as neighbors called him, who early became a business man in Atlanta but spent his last days in the Turniptown area, where he died suddenly Aug. 30, 1898.

Continuing members of this family, we should also list Marcus Lafayette, born 1851; Benjamin Osborn, born 1853; William Leander (Bud), 1855; Doctor Blair (Dock), 1857, died Oct. 9, 1883; Cicero, 1859; Nancy Ann, 1860, alive in Atlanta until recent years, her husband having been a Dr. Adams there.

In 1875 B. B. Quillian visited Osborn Holt and his wife and reported the couple was basking in the rays of a 40-year-old honeymoon, both still cheerful and buoyant.

Seaborn Holt married a daughter of Milton Davis and settled on Cartecay river, where he long lived. Quiet, industrious, unassuming, he attended strictly to his own affairs but did not forget to be kind and accommodating to neighbors. He was generally liked, seldom being involved in any neighborhood contentions. He was friendly to all those disposed to fair dealing. He was a Democrat, but, religiously was unattached. By his industry, he made a good living and reared an industrious family of boys. His helpful wife was acknowledged to have been an able factor in his success.

Descendants of these pioneer Holts are still numerous in Boardtown, Cherry Log, Ellijay, Cartecay districts, mainly. The members are usually characterized by good intellect, friendly natures and thrift and industry. A number of our leading citizens are either of that name or related though bearing another name.

Huffstutler

Levi W. Huffstutler, who was a bachelor, was the first sheriff of Gilmer County. He came from North Carolina, arriving here when he was about 30. He made his home with a brother-in-law named Jacob Summey. (And this may be a variant of Sumner, for the pioneers spelt carelessly).

As an officer he performed no official acts except to sign some deeds. Mr. Huffstutler was six feet tall and weighed 180 pounds. He liked whiskey, which made him quarrelsome and pugnacious. This combination, at the Indian ball game on Boardtown road, came near costing him his life, as elsewhere noted.

Hunt

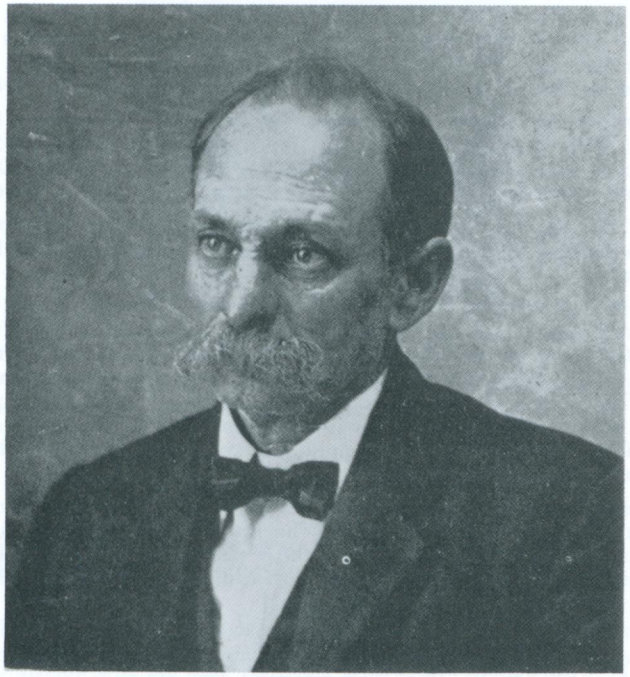
Dr. Robert R. Hunt, widely known in his time, was among the few doctors to maintain residence in one of the northern districts,* was born March 19, 1818, and died April 11, 1876. He joined efforts of a few neighbors, after the

*William Russell and W. H. Ellis perhaps should be mentioned as others.

educational collapse of Civil War days, to start a private school at White Path, where he resided.

Mary A., his wife, born Sept. 7, 1829, died April 9, 1891. Mrs. Jack Pinson was the daughter of this public-spirited couple. I believe there were other descendants who migrated from the County a long time ago.

Honored Son of Pioneers



PETER G. HYATT
Born at Ellijay June 18, 1848; died March 21, 1934, at the age of 85.

Hyatt

George W. Hyatt has been mentioned already in connection with the removal of the Indians. He was related to Peter G. Hyatt and of course his descendants. He removed to Arkansas and died there.

William G. Hyatt settled at Ellijay in 1834. He was one of the early white settlers there. He was the father of Peter G. Hyatt.

D. M. (Manley) Hyatt, related to the Hyatts already named, was prominent in the business life of Ellijay. He built the Hyatt hotel and made other invest-

ments. Born Dec. 21, 1850, he died Dec. 16, 1928. Mr. Hyatt was twice married. Mrs. N. L. Tankersley of Ellijay is a daughter by the first wife. The second wife was a Miss Zoro M. Henderson of Virginia. She was born Oct. 26, 1857. She died June 29, 1903.

A widely known and honored member of this family was Peter G., who was born at Ellijay June 18, 1848. He died at his home in Tails Creek district March 21, 1934. His wife, Matilda Hyatt, born Aug. 31, 1846, died March 10, 1904.

He early removed to Tails Creek community, where he was merchant, farmer and postmaster for more than 50 years. His post office was called Tails Creek, and so long was he in charge of the office that he became the oldest postmaster, in point of service, in Georgia. He was appointed to the office Sept. 20, 1877.

He had settled in his home community April 4, 1875, twelve miles west of Ellijay. During the Civil War the Tails Creek post office had been discontinued. He circulated a petition to have it re-established. It was re-opened, under President Hayes, with Mr. Hyatt postmaster.

P. G. Hyatt could recall Tails Creek community when it was more populous than it was during his last years. Corn was made into liquor that sold for 50 to 60 cents a gallon, livestock ran on the range and pretty nearly fed itself. He passed through the days of plenty of wheat in Gilmer County, and was among those who shipped wheat on the old steamboats down the Coosawattee river from Carter's to Rome.

No one who talked with Hyatt was apt to forget him. Fair of complexion, he was blue-eyed. He wore his hair somewhat long. He served his county as surveyor, tax receiver and county treasurer, as well as county board of education, a position for which he was well suited on account of his natural intelligence and pleasant personality.

Seth L. Hyatt, who died Sept. 1, 1961, and his brother Howard Hyatt, a living citizen of the County, and other brothers and sisters of theirs descended from John Hyatt, a son of Peter G. Hyatt, who lived near his father.

Ingle

Alfred Ingle died Nov. 4, 1901, at the age of 68. His wife Elizabeth died Aug. 10, 1908, at the age of 69. Issue were Sam, Tom, J. P., Cicero and Mesdames J. G. Dover and Allie Quarles.

James

William H. James came to Gilmer County in 1851 when he was 15 years old. He was a son of Ahijah James of Buncombe county, North Carolina. During the Civil War William H. James served in the Confederate ranks, Company F, 60th Georgia Regiment. He died April 15, 1925. His wife, Mary A., died April 5, 1917.

At an early investigation, we recorded sons of his: B. R., Jesse, Henry; and a daughter, Miss Minda, who made her home mainly with a brother, Henry R. James, at Eton. Another daughter, Miss Altha, died Dec. 23, 1929. On Nov. 16, 1959, only Jesse H. and Miss Minda were still living.

T. A. James was born July 5, 1847, and died Aug. 26, 1935. Nancy James, born March 13, 1842, died Feb. 29, 1924.

William B. James, one of the most widely known of our citizenship, was a son of William H. Born in 1877, he died Nov. 16, 1959, after a prolonged

Long Foremost in Sturdy Citizenship

WILLIAM B. JAMES, 1877-1959

illness. He was buried in Cartecay cemetery. A Methodist for 68 years, he served his church and community well.

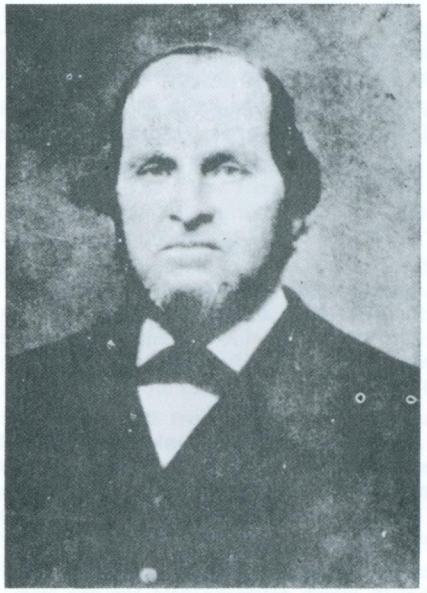
He was teaching at 16 at New Salem school, where Boardtown school is now located. He was for many years doing educational work at Oakland. He was also rural mail carrier and postmaster at Ellijay. He once represented Gilmer in the general assembly.

William B. James represented the best of our citizenship. He was a man of much kindness of nature; sturdy of character, very understanding and sympathetic. He and his family have co-operated generously in the production of this record.

Survivors include his widow; sons, Will H., Howard B.; a daughter, Miss Frances B.

Jarrett

Jesse I. Jarrett, whose name often occurs in any discussion of length of Gilmer County, was born April 9, 1820. He died Nov. 21, 1904. Charlotte T., his wife, was born July 2, 1829, and died Nov. 4, 1917.



JESSE I. JARRETT

Representative of a Family that Added Quality to Our Citizenship.

These people represented substantial citizenship. They aided in the development of the County. They loved the soil and the fine abundance in living that came from rich land. They produced the good things that Gilmer yields to the thrifty, industrious and intelligent. They were neighborly and gracious in citizenship. By comparison with the age of Mr. Jarrett, as elsewhere noted, we are able to fix definitely the age of Dow Grace, perhaps the longest-lived man in our history. J. I. Jarrett came to Gilmer in 1861.

Children of their family are, in a number of cases, long since deceased. Fannie (Mrs. Frank H. Walton) was born Dec. 26, 1860, and died March 28, 1894. Hix born April 10, 1852, died Jan. 7, 1884. David Taylor, widely known to many modern folk, born April 16, 1854, died April 3, 1933. Mrs. C. B. Kelley was a daughter of Jesse I. Frank W. was a son. For two years after Mr. Jarrett came to the County, he lived on the present Luke Whitaker farm in Boardtown district. In 1863 he removed to Ellijay and settled near the present railroad station. He was a factor of strength in bringing a railroad by his part of the community—even after it was being graded two miles north of Ellijay.

A J. E. Jarrett belonged to the militia in Boardtown in 1849.

Members of the D. T. Jarrett family occupied until recently the old Jarrett family home.

Johnson

Dr. J. R. Johnson came to Ellijay in 1867. He was said to have been a graduate of the Kentucky School of Medicine. Such a school was said to be located at Louisville. He practiced his profession at Ellijay nearly 25 years.

He was assistant penitentiary physician, president of the examining board for those seeking U. S. pensions. He was insurance examining surgeon.

A son, also a graduate of Louisville Medical college, was associated with him.

Jones

Samuel Jones, pioneer, born Aug. 11, 1796, died Sept. 7, 1870, was early in the County. Some would have him coming directly from Buncombe County, N. C., here. But if he were native of Buncombe, he must have come by way of Habersham county. For B. B. Quillian says he "first settled" on the Chattahoochee river in Habersham county.

It was here that Quillian says he first met Jones March 14, 1821, when Clemonds Quillian was moving from Franklin to Habersham County. Jones remained several years, then sold his possessions again. His next move was to the west side of the county to a section called Frogtown. When the Cherokee Country was laid out into counties, the Frogtown community was in a portion of Habersham that was included in Lumpkin county.

With the first election of county officers in Lumpkin in March 1833, Samuel Jones was elected sheriff, which office he held for one term only. Soon after the expiration of his term he moved to Gilmer, settling on the place up Boardtown road known as the Pierce Roberts place. This place was long afterwards known as the Jones place.

Arriving presumably in 1835, he remained here 16 to 18 years. He kept a number of slaves, who cleared up, in large part, this place and then cultivated it. He continued to keep slaves until near the Civil War. After coming to Gilmer he married a Miss Tate, related to the widely known Tate family of Pickens county.

Though Jones was limited in education, he was proficient in business. Not long after his arrival here, he was appointed to sell at public sale the stock and other property belonging to the Indians, and to forward the money to them at their new home west of the Mississippi. Also, not long after this, he assumed another responsibility.

The legislature of Georgia authorized the construction of a road from Dahlonega, by way of Ellijay, to the Federal road in Murray county near the Summerour place. The act provided for three commissioners to lay the road out and complete its construction. Samuel Jones and Isaiah Clayton, both of Gilmer, and Richard Bearden of Lumpkin served on the commission to build it. The exact amount of the appropriation was not generally known, but all of it was reported to have been spent—part of it to little purpose, as the part on Chattahoochee mountain, later abandoned. The construction, however, benefited generally because let by sections.

Later Mr. Jones was elected sheriff of Gilmer, and was said to have made an excellent officer. He also represented the county in the lower branch of the legislature several times. He was also, according to contemporaries, a good man there. Characterized by fine common sense, he was a success generally, it was said. A Democrat of the old school, he was a man of influence which he usually wielded for his political ally. He was never a member of any church.

Before the Civil War, he left Gilmer and moved to Gordon county. He lost all his investment in slaves, finally becoming poor. His wife, Narcissa, died Aug. 7, 1852, apparently at Ellijay, at the age of 53. She is buried in the old Jones burial plot in Ellijay cemetery. Just which other members of the family were interred in the plot it is no longer possible to tell, as their tombstones are badly weathered. But it is safe to say a number of them were—Samuel included.

John C. Jones, a brother to Samuel, came from Lumpkin county here soon after the migration of his brother Samuel. John C. was a minister in the Methodist church. He settled in the Clear Creek community, where he remained many years. He too, however, finally emigrated to Gordon county, where his "saintly and devoted wife" died apparently before he did.

Mr. Jones made quite a reputation in Gilmer through his church interests. A singer by natural gift, he much enjoyed that form of participation in religious assemblies. One of his friends remarked "I have known him to sing all night at camp meetings and still seem fresh in the morning." He seems never to have tired in the discharge of any religious duty, and as he grew older he seemed more devoted to such activities. Quillian says he enjoyed a peaceful life and a happy end.

Another man of this name, known as "Johnny," lived in Boardtown district, less than a mile northeast of the Bud Jones place. This place has been occupied by John D. Nelson, George Davenport, Posey Watkins and perhaps others. The house is a little off the Boardtown road and east of it. This man was from Buncombe county, N. C.

At least most of the Joneses living in upper Gilmer at the present time descended from John Jones, who once kept Santa Luca post office in Boardtown, and lived on the former Mang Fain place. From him descended Bud Jones and Henry Jones and perhaps other children.

Mort Jones, son of Bud, lives up that way; so do several more children of Bud's or their descendants. Some of the Joneses are more recent arrivals. And it is doubtful if some of the other members of the family now living are related to the pioneers we have mentioned.

Kell

The first of the Kell clan was James, hero of the Revolution and in the command of Major John Nall during that memorable conflict. Once his officer and his command engaged a band of the enemy near Lindsey's mill (about the line of Orange and Chatham counties, North Carolina), the enemy being composed mainly of Tories, in sanguine battle.

The Whigs (Nall's men) lost but five or six individuals. But Major Nall was among the slain. Some 60 Tories were killed. It was several days before the dead could be buried. By that time, as Mr. Kell used to relate, their bodies were bloated till they looked like porpoises.

One of James Kell's sons was Alex, who settled three miles north of Ellijay in 1834, where his widow died about 1882. Alex Kell was described by contemporaries as a quiet, unassuming man who was very industrious. He loved his home, was exceptionally kind to his family. While looking diligently to his own affairs, he gave but slight attention to affairs beyond that.

Ever true to his friends, he was an obliging neighbor and a good citizen. He was probably not a member of any church. His wife, however, was a Baptist and a prime mover in the establishment of Salem Baptist church, thus becoming a charter member of its congregation. James Kell spent his last years with Alex.

He was sometimes referred to by contemporaries as "Captain" James Kell. This may have had reference to his service rating during the Revolution. He related of that conflict many stirring incidents.

A man of good native intellect, he liked to discuss national issues. And on such he was well informed. Given time for thought, his manner of debating an issue showed forthrightness of argument. A Democrat, unaffiliated with a church, he died about 1854.

On Christmas Day 1902, Elkin Kell had a widely noted family reunion three miles north of Ellijay. Interesting family pictures were made and preserved.

On Aug. 31, 1928, the Marietta D. A. R. placed a marker at the grave of James Kell, thus honoring his service in the Revolution. The grave is nearly three miles north of Ellijay, near the Boardtown road and east of it a short way, in a well kept old family and community burying ground.

An old tradition of the Kells has survived 126 years. They arrived, it avers, Nov. 20, 1834, the night "the stars fell." This meteoric display, one of the most awesome in all history, was as alarming as it was spectacular to some. Among the startled were part of the Kells, who wondered if the vast rain of fire were the end of all things.

Their spokesman reportedly cried out in despair, "Oh Lord, we have disposed of everything we had in Rabun only to come here and lose our new home and other possessions in a starfall!"

But soon this remarkable incident was over almost as quickly as it came, and the surging emotions of the populace calmed themselves. The stars of the sky were all shining again in their usual places.

M. V. Kell served in Company D, 11th Georgia Infantry of the Confederate army. W. A. Kell was a sergeant in Company H, 65th Georgia infantry of the Confederacy. Kim is said to have served in the Western campaigns. M. V., Juan and Mark Gudger, having finished their service with General Lee in the East, cut their initials on their guns and stacked the weapons. They then, with sturdy hope, set out for home. For meals and shelter along the way, they shucked corn, cut wood and did other farm chores that offered themselves. In six weeks they walked the 600 miles back to Gilmer.

Mrs. M. I. Teem Sr. (maiden name Kell) and James E. Kell died within recent years. Mrs. Teem left a number of descendants, one of these being M. I. Teem Jr., locally stationed state highway engineer.

John T. Kell, also a Confederate soldier, was the father of the late John Kell of Blue Ridge. John Kell has living sons, Edgar of Blue Ridge, with whom he spent his last years, and Lester of Austell. He has, also, deceased sons, John Brinsley and Edwin.

John Kell also has daughters: Louisa, married Victor Crump; Mary Jane, married Kimsey Eller; Susie; Myrtle, who married Willard Plemmons.

R. L. (Lester) Kell lives in Ellijay. He is a son of Juan Kell. He has generously assisted the author with facts about his family. He married Miss Nannie Smith in March 1902. She died Aug. 30, 1958. Juan Kell volunteered for service in the Confederate army when he was 21.

R. L. and his wife reared four children: Howard, Hayden, who live near the spot where the Kells settled in 1834; Dessie, who married Charley Kiker; Paul, a third son, lives in Atlanta. Smitty is a grandson of R. L. A member of the younger generation, he has a record both as an athlete and student. Charles Kiker Jr. is a student at Waleska. Paul, his brother, is a student at the University of Georgia. Both are grandsons of R. L. Kell.

Kelley

Billy Kelley, an early arrival, settled on Town Creek, living a later portion of his life northwest of Talking Rock. Children were: C. B., Alfred, who became well esteemed citizens of Ellijay. Mrs. Lula Briant also was a former resident. She was a sister to C. B. and Alfred. Both Alfred and Mrs. Briant left descendants.

The Kelleys of Town Creek are said to be related to the Ellijay Kelleys. Charles left sons, Sager and Newton, and a daughter, Minnie.

Kiker

Charles William Kiker Jr. is a lumber company executive, and has already succeeded to the lumber business formerly established and conducted by his father and associates 1.5 miles south of Ellijay.

Mr. Kiker was born in McCaysville, Ga., the son of Charles William and Bessie (M) Kiker. He is a graduate of Embry-Riddle School of Aviation. He has degrees: A. B., Asbury College; Master of Science, University of Georgia.

He was married to Catherine Roberts in 1946. Their children are Charles W. Kiker III and a daughter, Linda Claire.

He was Vice-President of the Ellijay Lumber Company 1945-60; has been President and Industrial Psychologist since 1960. He was Researcher for General Time Corporation, Athens, Georgia, 1956. He has been Research Associate with Mendota Research Group since 1959 to date.

Mr. Kiker has also been Instructor of Psychology, University of Georgia Extension Division, since 1960 to date.

He was Vice-Chairman of the Fannin County Public Welfare Board, 1951-55. He was Chairman of the Local Draft Board, 1962. For 14 years he has served on the Local Board.

He was Vice-Chairman of Georgia Young Republican Committee 1948.

He served with the United States Air Force 1942-45, and saw service in the South Pacific. He has eight bronze stars won in eight campaigns. In 1943 he won a presidential citation.

He was named Georgia Inventor of the year in 1956.

He is a member of: American Management Association, American Statistical Association.

American Association of University Professors

U. S. Chamber of Commerce

Georgia Mountain Sportsman's association

Georgia Psychological association (member of the Legal Aspects committee)

American Legion

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Psi Chi (honorary Society in psychology for high grades)

Methodist

Kiwanian

Inventor with six Patents

Charles William, Sr.

Charles William Kiker, father of C. W. Jr., lives at Blue Ridge near his son. Mr. Kiker is still active in the lumber manufacturing business, a work he has been engaged in many years in Fannin, Gilmer and Pickens counties.

He was born Dec. 31, 1879, in Athens, Tenn. He attended school at North Georgia Baptist college, Morganton, Ga., Epworth seminary, Epworth, Ga.

He was a teacher in the schools of Fannin county during 1900 to 1902 and of Polk county, Tenn., 1903-04.

He is a Baptist, a Republican, interested and co-operative in local schools.

He was married Dec. 31, 1916, to Bessie Lee McCollum. Children are: Charles William Jr., Amelia Bessie, Bernice Agatha, Annie Dell, Dugger Paul, Cadmen Robb.

Mr. Kiker is the son of Herbert Noah and Zilpha Ann (Dugger) Kiker, and the grandson of Benjamin and Mary Kiker and of Benjamin C. and Mary Annie (Campbell) Taylor Dugger.

He has served Fannin county twice as representative and the 41st senatorial district (including Gilmer county) in the senate five times.

Mr. Kiker has the reputation of conducting his lumber operations so as to conserve timber for the future and to maintain the goodwill of the people with whom he transacts business.

Kincaid

Robert Kincaid was a pioneer from North Carolina, and settled on a tract of land known a long time ago as the Burrell place. He cleared a considerable part of it, and remained there for many years. Here he lost by death a wife known for her pleasant personality. She was a sister to Rev. Alfred Webb.

Mr. Kincaid himself has been described as friendly and helpful. There were several children born to this couple. After the death of his wife, Mr. Kincaid removed to Boardtown, and there married a second time. A few years after, he died.

In politics, Mr. Kincaid was Democratic, a Baptist in religion. During the 1890s several families of the name were still living in Boardtown—James, who toward the close of last century, removed to the Copper Hill area. John B. lived east of Salem church more than a mile. An older Kincaid also lived in Boardtown. He seems to have been "Uncle Jimmie," perhaps a minister.

Of modern Kincaids, we should mention Hoover, who makes an art out of auto body work. Jud, whose death is recorded elsewhere, is remembered for his hospitality in his home. Perhaps there is a slight relationship between the scattered Kincaids and those remaining here. The family has been in the County since very early days.

King

Isham C. King, pioneer, became sheriff of Gilmer, succeeding the sudden withdrawal and absconding of Levi Huffstutler. The inferior court appointed him and he served the interim from the fall of 1833 until January 1834, when he was regularly elected for two years.

King was described as "handsome and polite, taking pleasure in the accommodation of friends." He later removed to Murray county, dying near Resaca about 1875, honored and respected. "His end was peace."

W. P., a brother, failed in a mercantile business in Ellijay during the spring of 1835. He vanished and was never heard of again. He was an old line Whig.

The two, brought up near Clarkesville, Habersham county, were among the first settlers of Ellijay, and credited by Quillian with having built the first store in Ellijay.

William R. King seems to have been still another pioneer, not known to be related to the King brothers. He was raised in Hall county. He was described as generous and helpful. He and his wife were without children. Mr. King died at about the close of the Civil War.

Mrs. King was practical nurse to a wide area. She studied the use of medicines, and was frequent consultant on illnesses. She would apply herself for days at the home of the poorest family to nurse members through an illness; if the patient required it, she would work for weeks for his restoration, adding, to her personal services, funds when the situation required it. In spite of her strenuous manner of life, she attained an advanced age. She was a member of the Baptist church.

Among moderns of this name, was John, who made his home with the George Watkins household and worked for Mr. Watkins on his extensive farming operations. Mr. King had a sideline—maybe a hobby, which was the making of apple brandy in season.

Kirby

Thurston Kirby, born October 4, 1861, died April 5, 1890, was the first husband of Mrs. Ina Cole. His mother was Mrs. N. Levicy Kirby, born February 27, 1828, died August 2, 1891. Her daughter was Mrs. Laura Carmichal, who was born on the 17th of June 1857 and died June 1, 1911.

Mary Kirby (Fisher), born in 1855, died in 1938, was once a teacher of prominence and marked influence in the County and in the Seminary at Ellijay.

Thurston Kirby Jr., son of Thurston Kirby and Mrs. Ina (Teem) Kirby, born 1890, died in 1929.

Kitchens

This family, long exinct, also lived in the Town Creek community. One member, Francis M., was a captain in the Confederate army.

Langley

This family first settled, about 1850, on Town Creek. Lock was a well known member. The name survives in the Coosawattee section. Avery Langley, for many years, lived in the Pleasant Hill neighborhood. He now lives on the Chatsworth road not far from the city limits of Ellijay. Mr. Langley and his family are the kind of citizens who use well their opportunities. For years Mr. Langley has suffered from an accident caused by a falling tree. But he is not the kind of spirit that despairs, but he goes bravely on with living.

Logan

One member of the Logan family, Adolphus Tuscumbia, seems to have had but little if any relation to the later Logans of Gilmer County. He was a merchant, born 1849, died May 25, 1896. His wife, Sarah M., born September 8, 1860, died in Atlanta April 19, 1913.

Even a modern telephone directory proves that the name has a prominent place at present, for it lists B. C., B. C. Jr., B. J. Jr., Ben Jess, Charlie, David Jr., Ernest H., Grace, Grady, J. W., John T., Kimsey, Roy.

Lattie

Members of this family say the proper way to spell this name is Latta, and so it is usually spelt. It is a French word. William Latta was a Union soldier during the Civil War, having served in the 110th First Tennessee cavalry. He lived, however, in Gilmer County at the time of the war. He is buried at Mount Pleasant church, often referred to as Top of the Mountain church, near the edge of Fannin county. The Federal Government has placed a marker at his grave.

John M. Latta, son of William, has left a number of descendants in Gilmer. He married a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lindsey Harper. Mrs. Lindsey Harper was a sister to Rev. N. L. Osborn. Of the 10 children born to Mr. and Mrs. John M. Latta, several died in their early days. Of those reaching maturity have been Alice, who married Herschel Charles; Bright (now deceased), who became the wife of Lawrence Kincaid, taught in the schools of Gilmer County. Inez became Mrs. Andy Pence.

Myrtle lives in Ohio. She married Robert Holt. Opal, another girl, married Ed Starks; another girl of the family, Eunice, married Walter Starks. Claude, the only son of the family, is a prominent citizen of Mountaintown district.

Long

T. J. Long settled in Ellijay in September 1881. He had $85 in capital. But he became a prominent merchant, owning properties mounting in values into the thousands. He went out on railroad sidings and met haulers from the mountainous woods and bought their chestnut oak bark, an important source of tannic acid.

He left descendants in Ellijay: Will, long since deceased but remembered by many living persons; Mrs. Ed Pinson and Mrs. Alf Kelley and their descendants.

McDaniel

The McDaniels were pioneers and were long residents of the County, though the name seems to have disappeared altogether from our citizenship.

Thomas married a sister to pioneer Henry Pettit. He arrived in Gilmer about the time John Pettit did. He bought land and settled in what is still known as Scrougetown community, Cartecay district.

Mr. McDaniel was an early teacher. He was spoken of as a "good English scholar of his day, and one who ably managed children." He taught for many years in Cartecay district. At first a Baptist, he became, an indefinite time after arriving in Gilmer, a Methodist; and died, many years prior to the war between the North and South, in its communion.

McDaniel was a man of good common sense and read extensively. He was very entertaining in conversation, had few enemies; in fact, he was loved by neighbors, and at last missed by the circle of his acquaintance. The remaining members of the McDaniel family became scattered, and for a long time none lived in Gilmer. About 76 years ago the widow lived with a son near Ducktown, Tenn.

This son was probably Rev. John D. McDaniel, though of this we are not sure. Though Rev. John D. was certainly well known in Gilmer around the

1890's and into this century. He was a large strong-looking man who must have had a robust, well preserved young manhood. He was a Baptist minister. I do not know even approximately when he died. But he was an old man when this century opened.

Wash McDaniel, who, I am sure, was his son, lived in Boardtown district, and appears to have married into a family of that neighborhood. He died early in this century when he picked up a telephone receiver during a thunder storm and lightning shock killed him instantly. At the time of his death, he was living in the Copperhill basin, having removed there some years prior from Gilmer.

Wash McDaniel was also a Baptist preacher. He had massive features, rather reddish skin and dark hair. His heavy eyebrows and lashes were noticeably dark. He had large blue eyes. His deep voice carried far like his father's. Both men were above the average in speaking ability.

Mathis

William M. Mathis was one of the earliest settlers of the Clear Creek community. He married the oldest daughter of Milton Davis. Forty years after they were reported to be still living where they had first settled. Through industry and perseverance they were maintaining themselves well.

He was spoken of as reliable, punctual in his promises; always ready to help the needy, which he often did to his own financial injury. It was contrary to his nature to see anyone suffer if he could prevent it or even mitigate it. Both he and his wife were well liked and esteemed as neighbors. Without any church affiliation, he was a Democrat. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mathis lived to a ripe old age. The name survives in the County; also in Fannin county.

Miller

Jacob Miller was among early settlers in Boardtown, reaching there before the Indians left. His wife's maiden name was Whitener. Another of the name Peter was said to have been an early citizen of Mountaintown. Carr Miller, not known to be related to the other Millers of the County, was a pioneer in Tails Creek district.

The children of Jacob were: Crawford (J. C.); Betty, a daughter who was never married, both residents of Boardtown; Daniel, who lived on the Ellijay river between the city of Ellijay and the mouth of Turniptown creek; and twin brothers, Peter and Jesse, who resided in Cherry Log district. Their homes on Rock creek were not far apart.

Children of Crawford were three in number—Osborn, who lived near Buckhorn, finally on the David Sisson place half a mile north of the meeting house; a daughter named Dora who married a Watkins; Wesley, who also spent his life in the same section of Boardtown.

A son of Osborn, John A. Miller, still lives on a portion of his father's estate. And Wesley's children, George, Claude and Alice, still live in the old home community. Another son, Hoke Smith, became an expert chemist and was for many years located, in his work, in the New York area.

Another Miller, called also, Peter, resided in pioneer days in Mountaintown district, his residence being in the community of Abner Waters. This Peter Miller was a Baptist minister and was said to have had fair preaching ability. His neighbors had confidence in his piety.

Master Chemist

HOKE SMITH MILLER

Professional chemist and instructor.

The Peter Miller who was a son of Jacob had children, Dave, Mark, Andrew I and Mrs. Bill Harper. He also raised some additional children by a second wife.

Jesse Miller of Cherry Log had sons and daughters: Crusoe, Johnnie, Western, Harley, Lindsey, Coot; Mrs. Sarah Whitener, Mrs. Nannie Dillingham, Mrs. Lissie Welch, Mrs. Samantha Watkins, Mrs. Mandy Green, Mrs. Lillie Stewart.

Coot became an engineer on a passenger train that passed Cherry Log. At length, his son Ben was his fireman. The two were on their north run August 5, 1928, when the father, at a point in Fannin county, sighted a massive obstruction on the tracks ahead. He told the son to jump, which he did, and lived. The father went on in his cab and died in the wreck that followed.

Lake Miller, former postmaster at Cherry Log, and Kip Miller are among the present generation of Millers.

Ray Miller, son of Carr Miller, has children of the younger generation: Miss Pearl, Mrs. Annie Lee Ledford; a son, John.

Milton

Pinkney Harrison Milton was born in Buncombe County, North Carolina, April 11, 1840. His father was William Hamilton Milton of Versailles, France; his mother, who died at Ellijay in 1882, was Elizabeth Love Peoples of South Carolina.

Soon after his birth, Pinkney Milton moved with his parents to Union county, Georgia. The family resided there till 1845, when they settled in Gilmer County. He received a common school education at the old Gilmer Academy. He was twenty years old, when, on March 4, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company H, First Regiment Georgia Regulars, and accompanied his regiment to Virginia.

He first served under General Toombs, and later, under General Tige Anderson. He participated in the second battle of Manassas and in all the battles from Seven Pines to Fredericksburg, including the seven days fight before Richmond. He was wounded seven times—first at Malvern Hill, twice at South Mountain, at Yorktown, at the second battle of Manassas, and twice at Fredericksburg.

After the battle of Fredericksburg, his regiment was ordered to Georgia to recruit, and later still to Olusta, Florida, where it engaged in battle. His term of service having expired, he enlisted in the Navy at Charleston. In this service he continued eight months—until, in fact, the evacuation of this city, when he was taken a prisoner. He was confined in Charleston till the surrender of General Lee.

Upon his release, in July 1865, Mr. Milton returned to his home in Gilmer County. And, although some of his Civil War wounds permanently affected his mouth and throat, thickening his speech and otherwise handicapping him, he courageously resumed the civilian role he had laid down at the call of war. On the 31st of December 1865 he was married to Miss Nancy Williams. Ten children were the issue of this union: William Franklin, John Edgar, Robert Lafayette, Ida Lerisa, Irene Elizabeth, Emma Louisa, Lilly Rosalee. Effie, Ellen Agnes. Daisy, who died in infancy.

Mr. Milton's war record added to his popularity in the County. In 1868 he was elected to the office of sheriff, being the only Democrat on the County ticket who was elected. In 1870, 1877, 1879, he was re-elected. He then taught school for several years. In 1885 he was appointed United States deputy-Marshall for the northern district of Georgia. He continued the office under President Benjamin Harrison. In 1893 he was again appointed to this office, and served thereafter efficiently for a number of years. He was also a Baptist layman, and for many years served his association as clerk. People of his day can recall his stocky, sturdy figure seated at a table in front of the pulpit, his papers spread before him, as he listened at every detail of the meeting and faithfully recorded proceedings. He died February 15, 1921.

Mrs. P. H. Milton, born June 11, 1849, lived till August 2, 1920.

William Franklin (Bill) Milton's mental quality was noticed early by friends and neighbors. He knew all the County Officers from the time he was five years old. He calculated a carload of oak flooring to be 2,119 feet. It had already been calculated at 1,917. When it was finally re-checked, it came to Bill's figure. He was a mathematical prodigy at the Ellijay Seminary.

He must have been about 15 years old when, one morning, he was sitting absorbed in some reading matter. His mother, who was preparing breakfast, asked him to go up on an adjoining hillside and bring down a calf. Bill kept reading. His mother, firm in discipline, told him a second time and in a louder tone of voice accompanied, Bob Rogers thought, by a blow.

Anyway Bill left home without his breakfast or a hat. He was gone till he was 43 years old, four of those years having been spent in herding sheep in the far West. When he appeared in his frontier style of garb at his old home in East Ellijay, neither of his parents recognized him.

He asked his mother if she knew Bill Milton. She replied, "We know two Bill Miltons." When he had revealed his identity, she answered in a matter of fact tone, "You left when I was getting breakfast. You have come back when I was doing the same thing."

Bill remained about his old home two years, then went back West. He died there many years ago. But he is still a legend among survivors of his day.

R. L. Milton had a long record of public service. He began his official career before the close of the last century, and ended it at Ellijay in 1947. He died in the spring of 1951 at the age of 79. Foster Milton, son of R. L., served, as did his father, the County as sheriff.

Silas Andy Milton came here from North Carolina about 115 years ago. Oscar P. Milton descended from him. Clyde Milton, former merchant of Ellijay, and his several brothers and sisters are children of Oscar P.

Moore

William Moore was an early settler in northern Gilmer. He later moved a few miles south of Ellijay, establishing a home "where Squire Tilley now lives." Descendants were Rufus, Herbert, John, Charley, Lem, William Jr., and Polly (Woodring).

Herbert (or Hubbard) Moore spent his life in Cherry Log district on what was later the Harley Sharp farm. Mr. Sharp was a grandson to Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore was severely afflicted with rheumatism in his feet, said to have been aggravated by service in the Confederate army.

Mr. Moore's physical infirmity did not deter him from going to religious assemblies. While in a sitting posture, he did considerable other traveling. He got about on crutches. Mrs. Mort Jones, Mrs. Byers Searcey and Harley Sharp, their brother, should be listed among grandchildren of Mr. Moore's.

"Hubbard" Moore and a daughter, Miss Etta Moore, took the Sharp children, early in life deprived of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Sharp, into their home and raised them to maturity.

The Moores in the southern part of the County may be said to be represented in the record by Rufus G., who was a Confederate soldier. His son, Rufus G. II, was well known in his day around Ellijay and other sections of the County. He left two sons, Preston and Hoyt, who live in Miami, Florida.

Moreland

At one time so many Morelands lived west of the Pleasant Hill community that the school operated there was called Moreland. Once James Parks was teacher of the school. This family was an early comer.

One member lived on a farm in the Pleasant Hill community. He also came from North Carolina. Mrs. Jesse James descended from this family, and a brother of hers was one of the last of the name.

Morris

John Morris, a long time ago, lived near the Silas Whitaker home in the Boardtown valley but in Cherry Log district. The place in more recent generations has been known as the Barney Bates place. A few old people can remember a

spinster daughter of his named Jane, who was a weaver on the looms of the old days that supplied much comfort and assurance to people of her time.

We notice the telephone directory registers today but one person of the name—J. A. of Jasper road.

Mulkey

William E. Mulkey (April 7, 1840—April 7, 1910) and his descendants are not known to be related to many other Mulkeys in Gilmer. He died on his 70th birthday. He and his wife Elizabeth (July 4, 1841—April 26, 1913) left offspring, Richard, Nora, Ed A., Boyd A., Homer.

James C. Mulkey moved to Gilmer from Lumpkin county about 1836 and settled less than two miles south of the Chastains in the eastern part of the County. Mr. Mulkey was then a young man with a small family. A man of energy and industry, he sturdily supplied the needs of his family. Sometime after he reached Gilmer, he united with a Baptist Church, and was finally licensed to preach; and he was active in the ministry up till the time of his death in 1879. He was said to have spent a portion of his later life in the healing art.

Kind of heart, an excellent neighbor, James C. Mulkey always stood ready to relieve the distress of neighbors. His wife and a number of their children survived him by some years. The widow sustained the esteem the family enjoyed among neighbors, and it was said of her that no better woman lived in her community.

John Mulkey, an older brother to James C., was described by contemporaries as "a quiet, harmless man." He settled near James C. about the time James C. reached the County. He, also, was a member of a Baptist congregation. He and his pious wife both died before the War between the States. This couple likewise left descendants in Gilmer.

James C. Mulkey left descendants, Joe, Kim, Jont, Ben and Will. The living A. W. Mulkey is son of Joe. Daily is also a son of Joe. Among Daily's descendants are sons, Buford and L. J.

Neblo (or Niblow)

Little is known of this family except that it was related by marriage to that of Henry Grady I. It is from the Bible left by Mr. Grady that we obtain the following facts: Charles M. was born Nov. 19, 1843; John W., Feb. 3, 184— (that is, during 1840s); Henry Grady, March 30, 184—; Sarah S., Sept. 5, 1849.

Just how many of these were born in Gilmer is not fully confirmed. But most likely all were. The Neblo family lived at or near the old John Evans place. The Niblo home was probably farther up the valley nearer Whisenant mountain.

Nelson

One of the best known of the Nelson family was John D. His relations with Gilmer County extended all the way from pioneer times to the present century and the generation that matured but recently.

He was born near Spartanburg, South Carolina, May 2, 1825. On his 90th birthday he went rabbit hunting with his son, who was then himself an old man, and was described as "hale, hearty, possessed of all his faculties" and "able, with sound teeth, to crunch parched corn."

JOHN D. NELSON and His Wife, COMFORT JONES NELSON

He was the father of 18 children, 16 of whom were still living Jan. 30, 1915. His oldest child was then some 73. At the same time he was the grandfather of more than 80 children.

He recalled when "the stars fell," and the Cold Saturday of 1835—when frozen fowls fell from their perches and kettles of boiling water if thrown into the air rained down to the ground frozen into ice.

His father lived through the Revolutionary period of the Nation's history. His parents, when John D. was quite small, moved with him to northeast Georgia. The family subsequently removed to the present location of Nelson, Ga.—then a region of woods. The place is said to have been named for the Nelson family.

He once accumulated considerable property there. His holdings included marble quarries, then in the infancy of their development, which he sold in 1885.

For many years he followed his profession of blacksmith and gunmaking. He was regarded as quite an artisan. The long-barreled rifles made by him were particularly prized. He claimed that, firing one of them, he could "knock the ear off a squirrel in the highest tree." He often came home from the chase well laden with game, especially wild turkey.

During the War between the States he fought in the Confederate ranks. But in his declining years he longed to see the end of wars and the conversion of swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, even to the last Leman-Nelson rifle, if the rifle's retention meant war and bloodshed.

Mr. Nelson could remember when Atlanta, Dalton, Chattanooga—the whole of Gilmer County—were but forested areas, thinly populated with whites, and as yet, in several cases, unnamed. John D. Nelson was a Mason and a Baptist. He attributed his long life to his busy outdoor existence and habits of temperance. He was twice married. His first spouse was Comfort Jones. By her he raised a family of several children. About the time he attained the age of 90, his second wife (named Carter), who was considerably younger than he was, died. He liked his special brand of plug tobacco.

In the early years of this century, he left his old home place in Boardtown district. I am sure this was after January 1, 1906. He then moved to a place near Dalton, where he died Jan. 3, 1918, when he was nearing 93. Just how long he remained in Boardtown is a question but certainly for many years.

At the opening of this century he was already considered an old man. He had a massive, rugged countenance. His habit of shaving smooth fully revealed a reddish countenance. His blue eyes were probably more rheumy from long years of looking at the forge. He did not wear glasses or seem to need them. His heavy nose, reddened with the heat of his forge furnace, showed blue veins about the blunted end.

His human lapses were generally due to emotional force rather than weakness of character. For instance, Salem church, of which he was a member, in Boardtown district heard gossip about violence of his language and outbursts. The congregation sent a committee to "wait on him." He had a plowshare in his tongs and was pounding it on his anvil. When the spokesman for the committee addressed him on his mission, down went the plowshare in the dirt and the tongs with it.

He replied with a sample of his "saltiest" language that he would not come to church and explain. It was vain to expect a patriarchal type of his strength and individuality ever to be slavishly conventional.

His son Louis lived during the early 1900s on property adjoining his father's. Louis married a daughter of George Watkins. Their children were Beula, a daughter, and two sons, Howard and Hill, all of whom along with the author used to attend the old rural school at Buckhorn, with M. C. Briant as teacher.

John Turner, formerly of Gilmer, was a grandson also. His mother, daughter of John D. Nelson and his first wife, was still alive Nov. 14, 1946, and was then nearly 100 years old.

Doll Nelson—his real given name was Jesse—belonged to a Tails Creek family, where John Nelson was a "school patron" 110 years ago. He made his home, at least during the closing years of his life, in Ellijay, where he is still remembered by many persons.

Children of Doll are Burt, Calvin, James, Plez, M. H.; daughters, Dora, Emma, Pearl.

Doll had a brother named H. G. His family is now believed to be related to John D.'s.

When the writer made some of his first trips to Ellijay, Marion Nelson was well known in Ellijay. He was, we recall, a dealer in marble, and he had a son named Edgar. Edgar was just a small boy, but he attracted our notice by his bare gums on the upper jaw. Edgar satisfied the curious by telling them he fell against a table leg and knocked out all his upper front teeth. Marion Nelson was a son of John D. Nelson.

Besides Louis, Marion and Mrs. Jeff Turner, there were two other sons, Charlie and Steve, by his first wife. The second family began, we believe, with a son named Henry, who became a railroad man.

David Harper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Harper, Route 1, Ellijay, has the only John D. Nelson gun I know about. It is a museum piece. More than 100 years ago Frank Harper bought the gun from Mr. Nelson. It was bought for John Harper when Mr. Harper was a small boy. He bequeathed the gun to Austin Harper, who in turn presented it to his son David. It was one of the lighter models of rifle made by Mr. Nelson, weighing only 10 pounds.

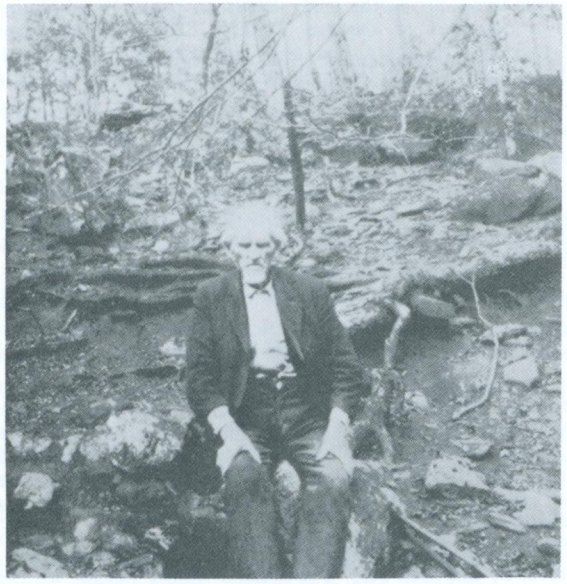
Newberry

William O. Newberry settled in Tickanetley around 1835. He is known definitely to have been here years before the Indians were removed. He married a sister of Minter Mathis, and lived in the same community for some 40 years prior to his death.

His marriage was considered by neighbors as a fortunate one, contemporaries pronouncing his spouse as "industrious and of sound business sense." Her acumen. about her household in general, was regarded as strict.

Mr. Newberry himself was punctual in his dealings, always living up to promises. In politics he was Democratic; in religion, Baptist. He was the father of Joe Newberry, who died near the spot where he was born Jan. 28, 1934, at the age of 97. He apparently was born in Gilmer. He was an honored citizen of fine sense and character.

Born among the Indians



JOE NEWBERRY

Special stories about him, his family and early adventures were published in the Atlanta Journal magazine Feb. 15, 1931 and March 8, 1931. He has numerous descendants in the County.

Further insight is added to the record of the Newberry family following the funeral of Mrs. Minerva Elizabeth Newberry, widow of the late John W. Newberry, held at Macedonia Baptist church.

Surviving Mrs. Newberry were four daughters: Mrs. B. J. Cantrell, Mrs. Annie Clayton, Mrs. Sidney McClure, Mrs. Roy Burnett; one son, James R.

Osborn

John was the father of Nicholas R. And he is believed to be buried where Nicholas R. and his wife are, on a wooded hill off Little Mountaintown creek on land now owned by Clinton Harper but once in the estate of the Osborn family.

Five Osborn brothers came from England to America. One of these was Jeremiah, who settled in Virginia; but later moved from there to Western North Carolina. And he was the father of John Osborn who migrated from there to Gilmer County.

Nicholas R. Osborn and his wife were charter members of Mountaintown Baptist church.

N. R. Osborn was born March 20, 1806, and died June 13, 1896. His son Fate is said to have urged him to be buried in Mountaintown Baptist church cemetery. But, as the family owned the land up west of Little Mountaintown creek, and it had been started as a cemetery before Mountaintown church was established in 1840, he was interred there at his own request.

Nicholas R. Osborn married Mary Johnson April 13, 1830. His wife was born Aug. 11, 1809. She died June 17, 1895. Their graves are side by side in the old original burial plot.

This family is most vividly remembered for the pioneer brothers, Nicholas and Jonathon, who came to Gilmer from Buncombe county, North Carolina, in 1840. Nicholas had two sons, Fate and Sam. Jonathon married Harriett Grady, daughter of Henry W. Grady I.

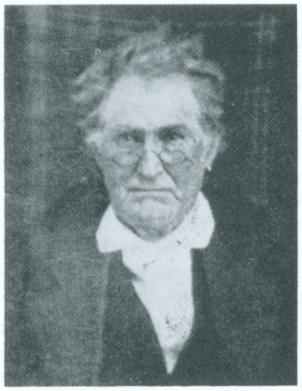
These two brothers seem to have had additional brothers, John and Newman, who also came to Gilmer but, after an indefinite stay, moved on. John died in Texas; Newman, in Illinois. More than two generations ago Jonathon Osborn moved to Murray county, all of his children except Leah West going with him.

Nathan Lafayette Osborn was the family best known to more recent generations. Born in 1831 in Henderson county, North Carolina, he came to Gilmer in 1840 when he was nine years old. He used to remark how his people found these fine bottoms now in cultivation along the streams standing in huge trees. Roads had no banks as we see them.

N. L. Osborn spent nearly all his life in Gilmer County. He was felt during his long life for strength of character, uprightness and sturdy quality of teaching as a minister and neighbor and for full rounded citizenship in its various forms of expression. He seemed adapted by nature and training for leadership among pioneers.

He remained with his father in the Mountaintown section till he was 21. After this he clerked in the dry goods store of Benjamin Johnson, at Ellijay, for a year. This would be 1852. He then farmed for a year on a tract of land that his father gave him. The first day of January 1854 he hired himself to E. W. and F. N. Gault to clerk in a dry goods store at Spring Place, in Murray county.

Honored Pioneer



REV. NICHOLAS R. OSBORN

At the end of eight months he and G. L. Stowe bought the stock of goods belonging to the Gaults, and the two formed a partnership that lasted five years.

But Mr. Stowe at length entered what Mr. Osborn later tersely referred to as a "hog speculation," causing thereby a dissolution of the partnership July 25, 1855. The balance of the year 1855-56 Mr. Osborn, on his own account, was in the mercantile business in Spring Place.

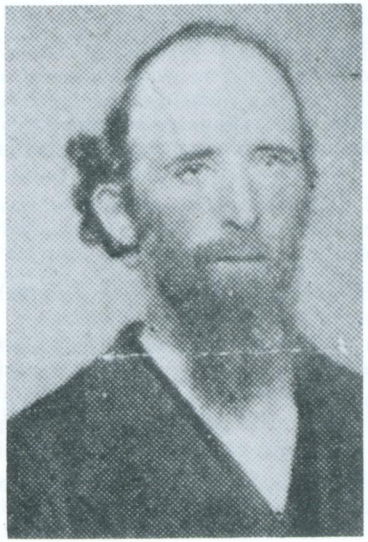
The first of 1857 he formed a partnership with Capt. J. M. Morris in selling goods. This partnership, in turn, lasted some two years, terminating November 1858. Having returned home, Mr. Osborn was elected, for a two-year term, clerk of the inferior court of the County, beginning his term of service January 1858. He was also elected clerk of the superior court (the name of the court having been changed meanwhile) January 1860.

On June 25, 1861, he entered the Confederate army and remained there until it surrendered. He returned the 27th of May 1864, and began farming again. He made a "profession of faith in Christ," as he states it, when about 19 years of age, and was received into the Mountaintown Baptist church. He was baptized in Mountaintown creek in the year 1849. In 1866 he became a licentiate in the Baptist ministry.

Later still, the church set him apart for ordination into the full ministry. On Saturday before the third Sunday in August 1867, J. Underwood, O. Parrott and P. Miller formed a Presbytery, examined him and ordained him. During 1868 and nine he worked on a farm and supplied four Baptist churches, baptizing into their fellowship some 150 persons.

When Mr. Osborn came to Gilmer, very little of the County was cleared for farming. There were no real roads and few schools and churches except at Ellijay. In a tiny cabin by Bear creek, just below a place now occupied by Carl Sales, he taught his first school. He was 17 years old. The date was 1848. The spot is less than a mile east of the modern Henry Grady school.

Friend of sound citizenship and civic progress



NATHAN LAFAYETTE OSBORN

He was married in 1855 to Miss Harriet Goddard of Sweetwater, Tennessee. To this union three children were born, the oldest of them died in Civil War times. The youngest son, John L., married Miss Elizabeth Parks in 1881. He died at the age of 23, leaving one child, who is now Mrs. W. H. Gudger.

N. L. Osborn continued to preach until he was advanced in age. Most of the time he supplied four churches and worked hard on his farm five days in the week. His compensation was indeed small; in many cases of faithful service, nothing. Fortunately, Mr. Osborn had good health and was always favored with plenty, being among the County's most prosperous citizens.

He was instrumental in building up the cause of missions in the County. For twenty years he was pastor of Ellijay Baptist Church. He aided in the erection of the house used by that body till 1932. Previous to the erection of a Baptist church in Ellijay, Mr. Osborn often conducted worship in the county courthouse.

Among the several churches over the county organized by him was Newhope, four miles northwest of Ellijay. At first, services were held in an old log school house. Afterward he aided in erecting a more modern school house—intended for a church as well as a school—there. The present Newhope church building is at least the fourth building on this spot since the beginning of Mr. Osborn's mission efforts there.

Nathan L. Osborn was the first school commissioner of Gilmer, having served the first term after Georgia established a system of public schools in 1872. In 1872-73 he was representative from the County.

He was among the most public-spirited of the County's citizenship in promoting a railroad. He donated both time and money to it, and for years was one of the directors of the work.

It was my privilege to know Nathan L. Osborn, who was ever the sympathizer and friend of beginners in work for social advancement and moral tone. Nothing seemed to do him more good or give him deeper gratification than to see serious-minded and aspiring young people "consecrate" themselves to a socially beneficial life career. The young minister had in him a true friend and counselor.

In the summer of 1920, when I last saw him, he was busy about some light task in his garden. He expressed himself then as satisfied with the length of his days and content to enter, as he would express it, Henry Vaughn's "land of light."

He died March 25, 1921, at the age of 90. His surviving widow died July 3, 1928.

Although Nathan L. Osborn had meager educational advantages, having come up under pioneer conditions, he had a fine capacity of mind and could have mastered what the colleges had to offer. His library showed a well cultivated, discriminating taste, and delight in good literature.

We present other data much of it copied from the Bible of Henry Grady I.

Jonathon Osborn died November 19, 1877. He had brothers, Newman, who died in Texas; Jeremiah, in North Carolina; John, in Illinois; Nicholas in Gilmer County.

John Griffin Osborn. Died August 26, 1893.

Hilsie Gober Osborn

Joshua C. Osborn was killed in the Civil War at Hagerstown, Maryland, while serving under General Lee in 1863.

William Augustus Osborn was drowned in Mountaintown Creek, Gilmer County, Georgia.

Mary Jane Osborn, who married Milton B. Blalock, died September 26, 1879.

Harriet Elizabeth Osborn was never married. She died January 10, 1874.

Henry Grady Osborn married Mary C. Cox October 9, 1859. Mrs. Osborn died January 16, 1884. He married a second wife, Fannie E. Powell, February 26, 1885.

Louisa Ann Osborn married John Humphery November 15, 1863.

George S. Osborn married Kesire Betavia Pruitt May 23, 1867.

Sarah Margaret Osborn married John H. Gaines February 16, 1870.

Nicholas Alonzo Osborn married Mollie A. Higgins December 12, 1876.

Louisa W. Osborn was born February 11, 1821.

Harriet Matilda Osborn was born November 19, 1841.

John Osborn, a pioneer, arrived in Gilmer "soon after Jonathon L. Coggins," probably late in 1836. He settled on a creek just below Mr. Coggins. He was reputed to be "steady and reliable, having the confidence of people generally." He remained on the place at least 50 years. Prosperous, he made it a rule of his life to be punctual in keeping his promises.

Prior to 1880, Mrs. Osborn had died. She and Mr. Osborn were both Baptists, always having been classed with the best citizenship of the County. The later years of Mr. Osborn were said to have been "troubled."

Newman Osborn was also an early settler. He first lived at the old Tucker place on the Cartecay river, remaining there several years. He then sold his home and moved to Texas with his son, Jerry. It was several years after his removal before his death there. Jerry long survived his father in the lone star state.

The Osborn family is still represented in modern Gilmer. The Osborns on Clear Creek road are represented by Jim and Less. Their mercantile business there has long been known as Osborn Brothers. James Osborn, once manager of the Co-op at Ellijay, is a son of the Jim of this firm.

Parks

This family, among early settlers, is numerous and widespread, therefore difficult to trace. I have been fortunate, however, in having cooperation of members of the family, especially James L. Parks, who lives in Mountaintown, and G. C. Parks and members of his family in Boardtown.

John Parks I, great-grandfather of James L., arrived in Gilmer in the year 1845. He settled in the lower part of the Ellijay valley near the present highway to Atlanta, buying out pioneer John Stephens. John I had sons, Monroe, Larkin I, Martin, John II.

Sons of Monroe were Sam, Bill, Pink, Mack, Burton, James I. These several sons consisted of the boys from two families, for Monroe Parks was twice married. He was the grandfather of our living neighbor James L., whom we may designate as James II.

Larkin I served in the Confederate army. And just after the Civil War he settled in Boardtown near the Parkses who were already there. His children were John III, Frank, Dave, Bill, Mark; and girls, Cynthia, Martie, Lou, Hattie. Larkin I died about 1895.

John M. (John III) was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, March 5, 1845. His father, Larkin I, brought him to Gilmer the same year. The family once lived on Flat Creek in what is now Leaches district. During those early days wild deer, turkeys and wolves shared the wilderness with the family sheep and cattle.

At the age of 18 John M. (John III) entered Co. H. First Georgia State Troops under Joe Brown. He saw two years of active service. At the battle of Atlanta he was captured and taken to Camp Chase in Ohio. He was married in 1869. Descendants were Larkin III and Samuel L., both deceased, and Noah F., whose funeral occurred at Ellijay Jan. 21, 1961.

For many years John M. (John III) was a citizen of Boardtown district. Later he settled on the old John Holt farm near Ellijay. Later still he removed to Gordon county. He was a Methodist in religion. He died July 11, 1939, at Calhoun, and was buried in Gilmer County.

Frank, son of Larkin II, was the father of Rev. Ed Parks, Cleve Parks, Jim, Tom, John; and, daughters, Annie, Alice, Lina, Estell and Lemma. Annie became the wife of John Harper and the mother of Austin Harper, well known in the Newhope community of the present time.

The children of Sam Parks, son of John M., were two sons, Glover, James and a daughter, Iowa. Glover is at present visiting in the County.

Bill Parks, a resident of Boardtown until his death about 70 years ago, left children, Mattie, Alfred, Hattie, Sarah and Naomi.

The Parks brothers, Bryan and Morris (twins) and Howard, are widely known among contemporary members of their family. They are sons of Noah F., resident of Gordon county, former Gilmer resident.

Will Harper, prominent citizen of Ellijay, is a brother to Austin, and, on his mother's side, descended from Frank Parks.

Burton Parks left descendants, James L., Jasper of Jacksonville, Fla., Joe of Jesup; William Burton, and two daughters.

John II, who settled in the southern part of the County, married a sister of Bill Gudger. Arthur Parks of Leaches was their son.

Bill and Pink Parks were residents, within our more recent history, of Owltown community.

William Parks, resident of Mountaintown district and brother and near neighbor to James L. Parks, married Miss Lillie Debord Dec. 24, 1899. Miss Debord was a niece of Landrine J. Tatum, being a daughter of his sister Rebecca.

Children of this union were Henry H., Edna, Exie, Mack, Ollie, Roscoe, and Ruth.

Patterson

Hense Patterson was once a widely known citizen of the northern-most section of the County.

The father of Jackie Patterson (probably named John) moved into a cabin at the present Bud Jones place as soon as the Indians moved out.

Besides Jackie, there were Sam, Josh, and Hiram Patterson. Once Jackie had a tiff with an Indian. Later the Indian came along where Jackie was helping some white men cover a house. The Cherokee reportedly began to curse Jackie bitterly. Patterson turned to Hense Chapman, a brother-in-law,

"Hense, how would you like to whip an Indian?"

"Fine," answered Chapman with a tone of relish.

Hense Chapman then left his task and trounced the red man vigorously, finally hurling him bodily over a fence. As soon as the victim of Mr. Chapman's wrath could pick himself up, he hastened away, next day the Indian and Chapman met at a muster at Buckhorn. Before the Indian was sure Chapman was not after him again, he ran clear across an open field.

John Patterson arrived in Boardtown district while the Indians were still there. He came from Hall county. For several years he remained eight miles north of Ellijay. The first Boardtown road was laid out to go by his house. Of the several sons born to him all have, together with their descendants, long since vanished from the old home area.

Mr. Patterson was described by a contemporary as "a very good citizen, a man of fair sense who could make himself very agreeable when among his friends." While inclined to the faith of the Baptists, he probably joined no church, and is remembered as probably inclined to the Democratic fold politically.

Pioneers Peter and Joseph, brothers, came from North Carolina to Ellijay. They had, to begin with, but small capital. But, having procured a location, they began to sell groceries—their main line being whiskey. Their resources increased, so that in a few years they had a prosperous business.

Their location was the Dr. E. W. Watkins corner, where the post office and a store were kept in 1875 by David Garren; and it was probably the first telephone central office. About 25 years ago the old building was dragged by a tractor and relocated at the north end of the Watkins lot, near the present Ross

Furniture Company. In its new location it contained the central office of the community telephone company until the company built a home of its own.

To their grocery line the Pattersons added dry goods. Over a period of several years their volume of business was extensive, Joseph, the younger brother, was the salesman, while Peter looked well after outside affairs. In 1855 Joseph was elected to the state senate. He took considerable interest in politics; while Peter, reportedly the more intellectual of the two, continued with his private affairs.

The two men married sisters (Misses Green). In 1859 they sold their Ellijay property and removed to Weatherford, Texas, where they remained several years. They at length removed to Waco. When last heard of, they were still in the merchantile line, and prospering at it.

Many years after their departure, relatives of the Patterson brothers remained in Gilmer. Their sister married "Squire Withrow." Other relatives also moved away, among whom was "Colonel Lewis."

Pence

Absalom Pence and his brother were, according to our earliest historians, the first white people to settle in the Mountaintown area. As this was in 1834, the Indians were still here. Absalom bought and occupied land a little way up Mountaintown creek from the modern highway bridge across that stream.

Mr. Pence erected a grist mill near his home. This was the first such mill to be built in that section. He was known as a steady, upright man, a member of the Baptist faith. In fact, he helped organize Mountaintown Baptist church in 1840. He was of worth to both his church and community.

He died long prior to 1880. But as late as that date his widow survived, making her home in Murray county with a son-in-law, Thomas Cox, who married her youngest daughter. A son of Absalom Pence married a daughter of Abner Waters.

Andy Pence lives today a little over a mile by direct line from the home site of his great-grandfather, Absalom Pence. Absalom had a son named Andrew Calloway Pence, who was the grandfather of Andy. A daughter of Absalom married a Wells.

Offspring of Andrew Calloway included Pink and Gilbert, the latter being Andy's father.

Once in Indian days Absalom Pence found himself doing a pretty brisk business buying corn from neighborhood Cherokees until he discovered a hole in his own corn crib. That told him that what was "Indian corn" could be "Pence corn."

Indians showed the Pence boys how to catch fish out of Mountaintown creek and to cook them on outdoor fires and eat them rare.

Penland

The well known Penlands of Ellijay descended from Thomas Young Penland (Dec. 9, 1850—Jan. 5, 1941), whose father settled in Tails Creek district about 1840. The first settler of the name was Samuel Hugh, who married Mary Whiteside.

James Henry and George Penland, brothers to T. Y. Penland, were both in the Confederate army. George, noted for his health and feats of strength, once

shouldered a log and carried it off with a man dangling from each end. He was killed at the second battle of Manassas.

T. Y. Penland was twice married; first, to Miss Hulda Orr, daughter of Farmer Orr, a pioneer. Children of this marriage were J. H. (Henry), Samuel O., D. G., Mrs. J. J. Withrow, Mrs. C. A. Woodward, Mrs. Dora McKenzie, Mrs. Ober Hensley, Mrs. W. A. Johnson, the last two being twins.

A number of children, including Mrs. Fred Reece, are now deceased.

Mrs. Ozella Kemp, living in Ellijay, is the daughter of a second wife.

T. Y. Penland knew a number of traditions from Indian days. One of these said the Cherokees brought gold ore from the vast wilderness down on the Coosawattee river (the exact spot still a mystery) and smelted it at a spot where Julius Rogers long maintained a mill and post office called Orr. Another tradition tells how an Indian chief importuned Farmer Orr to marry his daughter, offering as a dowery with her of half a bushel of gold, in hopes she might escape removal in 1838.

Other descendants of T. Y. Penland and his wives are Joe and Ralph Johnson, Mrs. M. I. Teem Jr.; Carolyn, Jean, Barbara Ann, Jack, S. O., Thomas, Joyce, George, Bill Penland, Rosa Nell Henson, Alene Johnson; Mary, Merle, Colleen Withrow; Tommie, Louise, Harriet, Martha Ann Kemp, Mrs. Edna Smith, Mrs. Dymple Deverell.

His descendants, before his death, ran to many great-grandchildren. Many of these have been born since this list was made some years ago.

Biddie (Cooper) Penland, first wife of S. O. Penland, born Aug. 25, 1889, died Jan. 21, 1920.

Carrie Penland (Reece), born April 22, 1895, Died Feb. 17, 1924.

Mrs. Mary J. (Cochran) Penland, second wife of T. Y. Penland, born Feb. 8, 1864, died Feb. 26, 1930.

Perry

Soon after John W. Bramlett, our first teacher at the old Gilmer Academy, R. B. Perry (born Nov. 4, 1809) moved to Ellijay and began teaching in Mr. Bramlett's place.

William Ellington II told the writer, "I began going to school there when I was five years old, in 1841, and Mr. Perry taught that year. My feet dangled from the hard old benches, my legs being much too short to reach the floor. I was dreadfully afraid Mr. Perry would whip me."

It is probable Mr. Perry began teaching here in 1840. The order of teachers in the Academy seems to have been: John W. Bramlett, R. B. Perry, William Irvin, John L. Reid, and Hiram P. Bell, who was teaching in 1849. This list was supplied by William Ellington II.

After he had followed the pedagogical path a while, Mr. Perry became clerk of the superior court, a position which he held 20 years. Near the close of the Civil War, he was succeeded by Frank Williams.

Mr. Perry then removed to Cassville, at that time an important and progressive community. There he remained until the place was overrun by a Federal army, and Cassville destroyed. He and many others left that section to seek such homes as they could find. Mr. Perry went to North Carolina, where he remained until the end of the war. He then came back to Ellijay and set himself to the doubly difficult task of recouping financial and physical losses.

He was already approaching an age considered in those times to be "old." His health had never been robust, and the strain and hardships through which he had passed had all but exhausted him by the time he got back to Ellijay. A stroke restrained him from his former strenuous activities. By conserving his strength sensibly, he lived several years afterward, dying July 18, 1871.

Mr. Perry was a leading member of the Baptists of his community. He passed his last hours in serenity. In politics, he was a Democrat and prominently identified himself with his political group. He was twice married.

His widow survived him by many years. In September 1880 she seemed to be still active and energetic, maintaining the old homestead. She kept a hotel part of this time, serving a select class of guests with meals that were generally approved. Mrs. Perry was spoken of by contemporaries as considerate of the comfort and welfare of guests. Her place was well advertised as the Ellijay hotel, under management of Mrs. E. S. Perry.

John Philip Perry, son of R. B. Perry, was a leading citizen and attorney of Ellijay. He was graduated at the University of Georgia with the class of 1884. He was mayor of Ellijay and also represented the County in the Legislature. Born Nov. 25, 1858, he died Nov. 24, 1903, at the age of 45. His wife, Mary Elizabeth (Cox) Perry, born Dec. 28, 1858, lived until May 31, 1933, thus surviving her husband by nearly 30 years.

Patience Perry was the first wife of R. B. Perry. Elizabeth Perry became the wife of L. C. (Lee) Cobb, brother to John P. Cobb Jr., member of another of the pioneer families of Ellijay. Mrs. Elizabeth Perry Cobb was born June 24, 1854. She married Lee Cobb on March 31, 1872. She died May 21, 1874.

Howard Perry and Miss Ethel Perry are descendants of R. B. Perry. Philip Perry, their brother, has not lived here during recent years, though he is much interested in his old home county and its background and visits relatives here occasionally.

Pettit

Much of the data on this family was supplied by T. H. Tabor, who stated that the grandfather of Henry Pettit I was a French merchant who came to America in 1760. Pettit, a French word, means "little."

About 1837 Henry Pettit came from Rutherford county, North Carolina, and bought out Larkin Holt and settled on the west side of Cartecay river. He had a large family of children, most of whom were still alive as late as 1880. Three resided on the old homestead, others nearby.

Sons were John F., who was a minister; Elijah P., Henry Jr. (or II), William, George W. and Joshua C.; daughters, Mrs. Barbara Miller, Mrs. Sallie Crane, Mrs. Elenor Walker, Mrs. Ann Holden. The marriage of Rev. John F. Pettit to Miss Rebecca Griffith makes all this numerous progeny related to the pioneer in aeronautics John Henry Towers, who became an admiral and whose death was announced in the press May 1, 1955.

Prominent among descendants of the pioneer Pettits are Rev. John F. (I) and his son John (II), who was the father of Noah W., S. F. (Fletcher), Elijah and George F., Miss Dora.

Descendants of Elijah P. were Frank E. Pettit and his sisters, Miss Mary and Mesdames Mamie McIntyre and Rebecca Osborn, whose husband was not related to other Osborns in the County.

Other descendants of the Pettit family and inter-married families were Dr. Kenneth who practiced medicine in Georgia and New York; Walter, son of W.

H. Pettit; Ben S. and J. F. Holden, sons of Mrs. Ann (Pettit) Holden; Clarence Walker and his several brothers and sisters, Mrs. W. A. Lundy, Mrs. Frances Morrison, Mrs. Maggie Kell and Mesdames Emma and Bessie Osborn.

Henry Pettit(II), remembered by many persons now living, lived on Rock creek in Cherry Log district. His father was William Pettit, one of the sons of Henry Pettit I. He has generously aided in the production of this History. Born in Gilmer County Oct. 3, 1848, his mother was a sister to Tobe Searcey, well remembered citizen of that district. Rev. B. B. Quillian officiated at the marriage of his father and mother.

Henry Pettit II was but an infant when his father died. In 1868, when he was 19 years old, he married a Miss Hice, sister to George Hice, pioneer of Fannin county, who removed to Gilmer before the close of the last century. To the couple 11 children were born, among these being Ella, John, Naomi, Mary, Addie, Lelia. Two of the girls who have survived longest lived at the old home place until a year or so ago, when they moved to Blue Ridge.

For 26 years Mr. Pettit's wife was an invalid. During all these years he was up and down at all hours of the night attending to her personal needs and comforts. The last four months of her life, Mrs. Pettit required all but constant care day and night. And during this same time Mr. Pettit and his family demonstrated their strength of character and human quality by the care they gave her. Mrs. Pettit died May 20, 1911.

While most of the Pettits have long been Republicans, Henry II was staunchly Democratic. Roger V. Logan, Bergman, Arkansas, descendant of John Pettit, brother of Henry I, says his great-great grandfather (who married Cynthia Clayton), James W. Pettit, served in General Howell Cobb's Georgia Guards. After the Civil War was over, Mr. Logan's family in Gilmer opposed carpetbag practices and were forced to leave Gilmer in 1872 or '73. They migrated to Boone county, Arkansas.

In January 1924 Henry Pettit II suffered a stroke that affected his nerves, muscles and power of speech. He gradually became unable to stand upon his feet. But his cheerful disposition remained. For 14 years he was a member of the Gilmer County board of education, and it may be said in sincerity that no man ever served the County more unselfishly in that capacity. He became interested in religion in 1862, uniting with the Methodist church three years later. At his wedding, he asked the officiating minister to lead a special prayer that his married life might meet divine approval. He died Aug. 28, 1929.

B. B. Quillian was a friend and neighbor of the original Henry Pettit (Henry I) and reminisces: "For many years Henry Pettit was one of the judges of the Inferior Court of Gilmer, and no man was more faithful in the discharge of his duties or watched with more vigilance the public interest. Gilmer County never had an officer, in fact, who took a deeper interest in its well being.

"As a neighbor, he was always kind, welcoming unfailingly friends who called. He was efficient in having everything in its place about his premises, and seemed ready for almost any turn of events. Toward the close of his life, he had his plantation surveyed to be divided among his children."

He asked Quillian to come to the Pettit home and write a will for him. Comments Quillian, "I found him up and cheerful. But he remarked his time was short. And when I had finished the will, he stated that he had finished the work of his life, which he was ready to yield up also. He lived but a few weeks longer. His good wife survived him by several years." Both were buried in Cartecay church cemetery.

John Pettit, brother to Henry I, also came from North Carolina and settled in Gilmer, Tickanetley district, on a farm occupied by a Mrs. Brindle in 1881.

But he finally sold out this property and moved to Pickens county, where he long lived and where his widow is believed to have lived much longer.

Known as a generous, honest man, John Pettit was known as a first quality neighbor who took pleasure in accommodating friends. He was long a member of the Baptist church, and "devoted to its altars." For some reason or other, the Pettits nearly all finally became members of the Methodist church.

Pickett

Joseph Pickett was said to have come from Buncombe county, North Carolina, though his descendants say he was born on the Saluda river in South Carolina in 1805.

Mr. Pickett migrated first to Cobb county. From there he moved to Boardtown district in northern Gilmer. From there he went to Ellijay. Later still he moved to Town Creek. He served in the legislature. He was the County's representative when a railroad was engineered through the County.

He was also once clerk of the court. His wife's maiden name was Amanda Edny of North Carolina. Ten children were born to him and his wife. Referred to by contemporaries as "colonel," he arrived in Gilmer a considerable time before the Indians left.

He kept a hotel part of the time he was in Ellijay. After serving his two terms as a court clerk, he went to Town Creek. He was living there when Bud Ward, a boy about 12 years old, on his way north to his home in Cherry Log district, stopped at Pickett's place.

He said Mr. Pickett presented him a canteen full of liquor. This was about 1871.

Mr. Pickett's early opportunities were few and his formal education limited, but he used well what he did learn and pushed energetically his opportunities. He represented Gilmer for about 10 years in the legislature, where he was considered an able parliamentarian. As a legislator, he was said to have guarded well the treasury of the state. He was above the average of speakers when it came to presenting his cause. He died at 84, his wife at 81.

Julius Pickett, well known to past generations, was a son of Joseph. He moved to the John E. Davis (formerly the Plemmons place) farm on what used to be called "Old Christmas," Jan. 6, 1874. John E. Davis, near the same date, headed for Dalton, thence to Kansas.

Here Miss Missouri Pickett long occupied, alone, the old home until her death several years ago. She was one of the children of Julius Pickett, having been born Jan. 4, 1875.

Will Pickett, a son of Julius Pickett, was long an esteemed resident of East Ellijay, then of Ellijay and, later still, of Atlanta, where he died some years since. He was survived by his widow, who was Miss Pearl Johnson, and their son Mack. After remaining in Atlanta a while longer, Mrs. Pickett and her son are reported to have removed to Florida. There Mrs. Pickett also died some years ago.

Pinson

Jack, one of the best known of this pioneer family, was born Feb. 7, 1853, and died June 22, 1937. His wife Alice (daughter of Dr. R. R. Hunt), born June 7, 1853, died April 8, 1929. Their son M. E. (Ed), born Aug. 12, 1881, died Aug. 24, 1934.

JACK PINSON

Sportsman, Official and Popular Citizen, who saw much of the Change from Pioneer to Modern Gilmer.

Other Pinsons interred at Ellijay are R. G., Aaron, Margret, J. B., Mary, and Susan. Aaron appears to have been a pioneer. He was said to have been known as "Colonel" Pinson. Whether this was complimentary or a real military rating is not known. He came from Rabun county, settling in the house that Chief White Path had vacated late in 1838 when he removed westward with the other Cherokees. Just how much time elapsed between the departure of White Path and the arrival of the Pinsons is not clear. But it could not have been more than a few months. The house still stands, the most important relic remaining from Indian days.

Mrs. Bartlett Pinson lived here until within the recollection of persons still living. She was the widow of a son of Aaron Pinson.

Colonel Pinson was described by contemporaries as a "well informed" man, one who read and understood the papers of his time. He was further described as possessed of genteel manners and one who made himself pleasant and agreeable in the company of his friends. Hospitality and neighborliness characterized him generally. He died not many years after arriving in Gilmer.

His oldest son, Bartlett, lived at the old homestead until 1865, when he was killed from ambush. His widow, however, survived him by many years, dying at the same place in 1913.

Among the sons of Bartlett Pinson were Jack, already mentioned; Joe, Arthur and Sam.

Of the modern Pinsons, all descendants of the pioneer Pinsons, we mention: Robert and Miss Edna, children of Robert E. Pinson, official and long a mail carrier in the County; H. B. Pinson, Herman E. Pinson and Thomas E. (Toney) Pinson are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pinson. Their mother, Mrs. M. E. Pinson, still lives in Ellijay.

Will Pinson, retired railroad conductor, son of Arthur Pinson, lived in Atlanta until a few years ago.

Plemmons

This is one of the oldest of white families of Gilmer County. Billy was an early settler of Boardtown. He came, as did many another sturdy settler, from Buncombe county, North Carolina. He lived where Chris Plemmons lived at the time of his death. Older neighbors can recall when a maiden sister of Levi (or Lee) Plemmons, Sallie by name, lived at the place.

Levi (or Lee) Plemmons, also recalled by many persons, lived at a place across the valley and in sight. His widow, Mrs. Lou Plemmons, lived there after the decease of her husband. A house no longer stands at this site as fire has destroyed it.

Wiley (W. L.), son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Plemmons, lived his closing years on the Jack Burch place, a little farther north. Brothers of W. L., besides Chris, were Will and Tom. Sisters were Mrs. W. I. McVey, Lorena and Mrs. Ab Holt. The McVeys of Gilmer are probably descended from children of the first Mrs. W. I. McVey as well as the second, who was Miss Melvie Plemmons.

Mountaintown Plemmonses, Henry and his son Willard, could be related to Thomas Plemmons, who reportedly built the house Miss Missouri Pickett occupied till shortly before her death. But Gordon Plemmons, a sister, Roma, and Jack Withrow's first wife descended from a Tickanetley family of this name. Miles Plemmons, from that district, married a daughter of Julius Pickett.

On June 5, 1943, Erasmus E. Robertson of Juno, Alaska, while visiting in Ellijay, reportedly said that Hal Plemmons was his maternal grandfather, and that this Plemmons once lived at Ellijay. He further stated that Mr. and Mrs. Hal Plemmons came to Georgia from North Carolina "in the early 1820s" (this would be years before Gilmer County was laid out and named). But Hal settled at Ellijay, then an Indian trading agency, it was averred.

Mr. Robertson listed the children of Hal Plemmons as Bill, Bob, Henry, John, Lee, Tom, Ben, Fate, Margaret, Martha. John Plemmons, he asserted,

remained at Ellijay. Carters, Spencers, Dotsons, Felmets and Sumners were cited as related families. Descendants of these Plemmonses are Henry and his descendants, W. L., Chris (both now deceased) and a number of others.

We doubt if by W. L. he means Wiley L. of Boardtown, as the latter descended from William and his son Lee and not from John, as asserted by Mr. Robertson.

Early settlers entering Ellijay about 1833 do not mention a Plemmons family as being still there. But we note that W. B. was a judge of the inferior court in 1861-2. And William E. Plemmons was sheriff in 1852-4. So that members of the family give evidence of having maintained a continuous residence in Gilmer from early days.

"Seab," or Seaborn Plemmons, who lived at a location just above the modern Bob Fain place, is remembered well by children of my day. He was a son of Billy and of course a brother of Levi. His wife was the mother of "Oc," or Oscar Fain, by a former marriage which ended in widowhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Plemmons raised six daughters. According to neighbors, the girls became Mrs. Frank Jones, Mrs. Albert Shelton, Mrs. Joe Scott, Mrs. Becky Davenport (her husband was George Davenport, a grandson of George Watkins); Hattie married Teddy Thornton, who seems to have been a local preacher; Mrs. Amos Thomas. whose name was Lizzie.

Dr. Arthur N. Thomas of Cleveland, Ohio, is a son of Elizabeth Plemmons Thomas. After he got old enough to find his way to the Berry schools, though greatly handicapped in visual ability, he studied there. We understand he also studied further at Northwestern university.

Poindexter

A family with few members is well represented in Ellijay by the number who bear the name Poindexter. Charley is well known, among these, for his personal quality. He has a son, Charles Jr., and a daughter, Mrs. Grady Wimpey.

J. D. Poindexter, many years ago a teacher of the County, was also a minister of the Baptist faith for many years. Much of his work was done outside of Gilmer.

R. A. (Sept. 2, 1847—Oct. 26, 1909) was the father of children, in addition to Charley, Tom, Louella (Drinnon), Belle.

After doing his stint as a mail carrier, C. C. Sr. was a justice of the peace at the county courthouse. "Junior" is still carrying the mail.

Price

Maj. John E. Price was a pioneer from Rabun county. He moved to Ellijay, where he was an early merchant, being assisted in his business by his brother, Hawkins F. Price.

John E. moved from Ellijay to Boardtown and settled, we have heard, on the Wes Miller place. For several years he was a representative in the Georgia legislature. He later moved into Pickens county, where he was also a representative.

Such was his firm, neighborly and conscientious nature that he finally lost his life. Near the close of the War between the States, a Mrs. Jones, neighbor to the Price family, asked him to go to Richmond, Virginia, to assist in bringing home an afflicted son of Mrs. Jones. Upon his return, having completed his strenuous mission, he rapidly declined in health (was half sick when he started) and died. He was a Methodist in religion.

He left a widow and a large family of children, among whom was Irving S. Price, a Baptist minister. Irving S. and some others of the family became citizens of Bartow county.

Hawkins F. Price was only about 20 years old when he came to Gilmer, which he reached after his brother settled here. He was said to have been a man who studied to improve himself personally and to better his methods of transacting business. He was also described as honorable. He later was in charge of a store at Ellijay owned by Col. James Brannon, who came to Ellijay from Clarkesville.

Later still, he and Brannon having both removed to Cassville, he became a partner in business with Col. Brannon. Finally Mr. Price became the sole owner of the business.

While at Cassville, he married a Mrs. Jones (formerly a Miss Upshaw). He finally removed to a farm. The people of Bartow twice honored him by sending him to the state senate. Dignified, of a pleasant bearing in social circles, he was said to have been a man of impressive appearance. He was a member of the M. E. Church South. At his death, in December 1873, he left a wife and two children.

The only other Prices of Gilmer that we have learned about were two: Tom, about whom we made mention in connection with gold mining. We learned him well enough to recognize him. John Price, a railroad employee of Etowah, Tenn., who often visits Cherry Log, where he used to live.

Quillian

To say that the name of B. B. Quillian should be honored in the memory of every man, woman and child who loves Gilmer County would be to speak restrainedly. Every chaplet, the eloquent phrase of the orator, every note of praise that may be rung through the years belong to him. Speaker, writer, poet, young folk of the future, bear on the onsigns of gratitude to this man.

He was the first deputy sheriff of Gilmer, becoming so when he was still an impressionable boy of 18. He was, in fact, executive of all duties of the sheriff's office while Levi Huffstutler was nominal sheriff. He was the most active of all the pioneers in recording our history. He had an energetic yen for reminiscing and putting things on the record. He lived near Oakland school. And part of the land he once owned was later embraced in the J. S. Hudson estate.

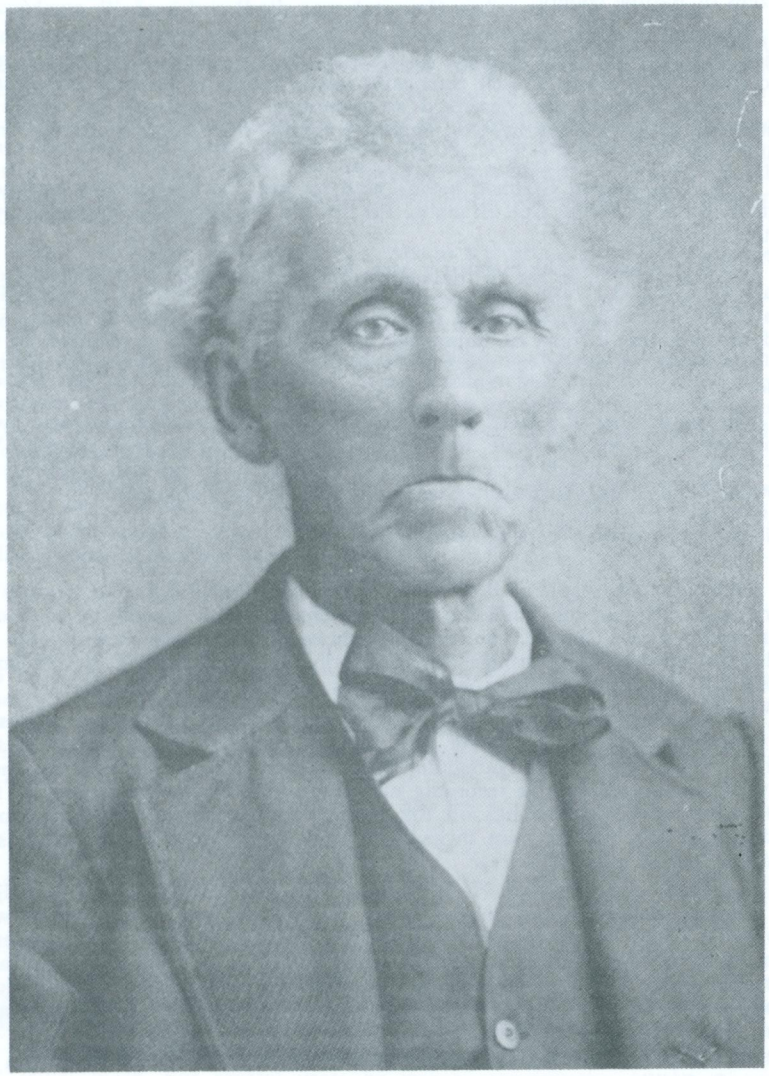
He notes "of my brother, H. K. Quillian, who was the first citizen of Ellijay (he himself reached Ellijay in the spring of 1833, a year after Gilmer was surveyed), I feel free to say he was a man of fine common sense. His discernment of the nature of other men rarely failed; also, he had intense energy and succeeded quite well with personal affairs. He died, a victim of consumption, some five years since (about 1884) in Auburn, Alabama." H. K. Quillian and John Allen built Gilmer's first jail.

B. B. Quillian and H. K. Quillian had a brother, J. B. C. All were sons of Clemonds Quillian.

On the day after "the Cold Saturday" came the wedding of B. B. Quillian. His marriage to Miss Sallie Ellington occurred Sunday, Feb. 8, 1835. The bride was described as both beautiful and intelligent. She was the daughter of Rev. William Ellington I. The ceremony was performed by "that hearty good fellow," Stephen Griffith, J. P.

For 29 years the couple lived together in harmony and affection. In 1864 Mrs. Quillian died..

Foremost Contributor



B. B. QUILLIAN

Public official, minister and citizen unselfishly devoted to the interests of Gilmer County, bequeathed to us his reminiscences of the early days.

The first time B. B. Quillian visited the Cartecay community was in the early spring of 1833. Of those days he records, "I was trying to get to Ellijay. But it rained and creeks got up. Cartecay river would swim a horse. I lay down, at the upper end of what afterward became the L. D. Ellington farm, and upon its banks waited half a day for the stream to fall.

"It was a beautiful day—and Sunday. All rain had ceased to fall. The wind had swept away the clouds and all nature wore a fresh, crisp appearance. This mood of nature cheered my lonely vigil. Late in the evening, just above the bluff at the upper end of Mrs. (Elizabeth) Simmons' plantation, I slowly guided my horse into the dark-red flood, gently urging him step by step.

"A dangerous venture, one I have never repeated since. But I had confidence in my noble mount. He had already swum every stream from the Amicalola mountain to the Cartecay river, so I felt sure I could trust him in this further emergency. He steadily strove against the current. But in spite of all his efforts we landed 50 yards farther down the river than we had purposed.

"But safely we landed; and, having once again gained firm and open ground, we resumed our journey about sundown. I arrived at my brother's near Ellijay far in the night, hungry and still wet. Very soon, however, the wants of both man and beast were supplied. I soon lay down to composure and sleep. How sweet such rest at the end of my wearisome and dangerous journey!"

Describing the country through which he rode, Quillian said, "In 1833 there was very little land in cultivation in what is now Cartecay valley. The Indians had occasional patches only in cultivation, and there was not a white family living from Daniel Davis's, on the Hightower (now the Etowah) river, to Ellijay. There was no road except an Indian trail. Very few wagons had ever crossed the Amicalola mountains.

"When my father moved from Habersham county to Ellijay in July 1833, we took the first loaded wagon across the mountains. We had three wagons, two of them drawn by oxen and bearing one thousand pounds each. The other, with a load of 2,000 pounds, was drawn by a large yoke of oxen and two horses.

"We often had to double-team and pull ahead one wagon at a time. We were nearly six days on the road, a distance of only 60 miles. We had to cut out of our way logs and saplings; our forward progress, as a consequence, was very slow. We camped one night on top of the mountain; the next night we reached the branch where E. P. Pettit later lived.

"The trail at that time passed through N. T. Tabor's plantation and near where Mrs. Mary Simmons later lived. It crossed the Cartecay river at the upper end of a farm owned by a Mr. Parks many years ago, and continued to the branch that runs into the river and through a field that subsequently belonged to Coke A. Ellington. The branch was at the lower end of the farm.

"We crossed the Cartecay river just above the mouth of the branch, passed through a gap and a branch near which once stood a fort. (This was Fort Hetzel, near the site of the A. M. Johnson home in modern East Ellijay). We crossed the Cartecay river again (at a ford still in existence some 60 years ago at a point approximately where the present new East Ellijay river bridge spans the stream). This was the only passable way for a wagon to approach Ellijay from the east in 1833. But when Col. Goodman built his sawmill on the Cartecay river, he cut out a better road from Ellijay eastward."

After the Goodman mill was established, a passway naturally evolved between it and a point where a Mr. Mashburn lived more than two generations ago. This route soon became an integral part of the wagon road between Ellijay and Dahlonega.

John Addington, having soon after bought the McHan place on the Cartecay river, set himself the task of opening a road from his home (near the present highway bridge) to Ellijay. He began the present improved route, which has demonstrated, through directness, its worth.

For several nights, while improving this road, he camped below C. A. Ellington's place. He was then beginning a stretch that followed the north bank of the river into Ellijay—again the way the modern highway runs. In those days there had been only a bridle path along the river tracing what has become our established road eastward.

Addington worked with such energy and proficiency that he and such help as joined forces with him from Ellijay had the way, after but a few days, passable for wagons. Travel quickly turned to the new survey. From time to time Mr. Addington continued to improve his new road to Ellijay and elsewhere.

B. B. Quillian noted that, as other white settlers moved into various other sections of the County, roads evolved on the same self-help and co-operative plan.

Continuing, he states, "While the first white people had to travel bad roads, they were blest with range. If one tired of traveling and wanted to rest his horse or team, he could turn his animals free, then lie down, during warmer days, in the shade by some delicious cold spring and wait till the animals were filled with the rich, succulent grasses and other highly nourishing herbage all around. In a few days one man could have cut grass enough along any of our creeks and branches, anywhere from the mountains to Ellijay, to winter an average size farm's livestock.

"Upon the very spot where the town of Ellijay now stands was one of the finest ranges for cattle and horses. Men could plow their horses till crops were laid by, then turn them out on the free range and by fall the beasts would be quite fat. Many people made their farm crops with animals fed entirely from wild grazing ground. This was more often true of Indians than of white people."

Rackley

The Rackleys appear to have come from North Carolina. The original settler was Richard, who established a home in Tickanetley. The old home is said still to be pointed out as the old "Dick Rackley place." He had sons, Bail, Webb, Bill, and perhaps a fourth son named Marion.

Bail Rackley, one of the longest-lived and best known and well remembered of the boys, had a son, John D. (John Dick), father of Poley Rackley; years ago John D. moved to Cherokee county, going, later still, to LaGrange, Ga., where he died in 1918, being buried, however at Turniptown.

Other sons: Gus, who died early, about the time John D. did, and Will. Jane, a daughter of Bail's, married Sherman Henson; other daughters were Nance, who married Walter Smith; and Kansas, who married Andrew Henson.

Richard Rackley married a daughter of Augustus Bailey, a pioneer. Even that Rackley was spoken of as a gracious-hearted, neighborly man. He died in 1901. Bail lived, at least during his later years, east and north of Ellijay, on the edge of an area usually designated, even in Indian days, as Turniptown. He was a Confederate veteran, and lived until a time within the recollection of many now living.

Ed Rackley was an honored citizen of Cartecay district. In the fall of 1932, he was elected sheriff of Gilmer County. While still serving the County in that capacity, he died suddenly. His son, Ed Jr., succeeded him in office. He is kindly remembered for his many fine personal traits.

Mrs. W. E. (Ed) Rackley is now a resident of Ellijay. Ed Jr. also lives in Ellijay. Roy Rackley, operator of the Rackley Department store, is another son.

Poley Rackley, having a business on River Street, Ellijay, states he is the oldest member of this popular family now living in the County.

Randell

Gabe H. Randell, to whom various references are made in old Gilmer newspapers, was born June 2, 1830, and died Jan. 1, 1900.

Sarah, wife of G. H., was born Sept. 15, 1842, and died July 16, 1890.

Other members of the family were Lissie, Ophelia, who was teaching at New Salem, now Boardtown, school in July 1893. She later reportedly married a man named Jordan; later still we heard of her death.

Other Randells were Betty, Estelener, Beula, Henry, Oscar.

The Randells long lived at Ellijay but vanished many years ago.

Other people, perhaps with a slight difference of spelling, of name went from Ellijay to southern Georgia.

The Randall who once owned property at White Path was not related to any of the other people of a like-sounding name in Gilmer.

Ray

Bobby Ray early settled on Town creek. Other members of the family were John and Enoch. Daughters of the pioneer Ray families wed Bill Goble, Pink Cloniger and William Simmons.

John Ray was the grandfather of Charlie, genial, popular and neighborly, who lived two miles south by east of Ellijay on the old road to Atlanta. He resided on his farm, a place once occupied by Z. T. Crawford, as long as he lived. He was never married.

Charlie was at one time a student at Morganton about the time the mission school of the Baptists opened there in 1900. He was once a teacher in the Gilmer County schools. He died March 2, 1941. Peaceable, serious-minded, sincere, helpful, he was deeply interested in religion, music and human welfare. He will ever be a fond memory to those who knew him well enough to understand him.

J. H. (usually called "Duck") Ray moved, after he had attained maturity in life, from Fannin county to Turniptown. He knew about as much about latter-day frontiering in Gilmer as any man in it. Before he left Big Creek community, he had spent a lot of time in the mountains. He was a chief figure in engineering a road from his settlement to Gilmer, as elsewhere recorded. Albert Ray, his son, and some other members of his family settled near him.

Joe H. (another J. H.) Ray and his family established a home on the Atlanta highway about five miles south of Ellijay. Mr. Ray at his death was one of the few left of his friends and associates from the days of valiant efforts to establish better roads, schools, electrical conveniences, telephones, housing, and other main advances.

"Jones' Ray, his son, lives in Ellijay. He maintains a Salvage Sales business on River Street.

Clark Ray, attorney, once lived in Cartecay district and taught there. Later a resident of Ellijay, he served the community as mayor. While in that capacity he headed a move to begin to pull Gilmer out of the rocks and alternating dust

and mud known as roads. He led the move to pave the first stretch of road from Gilmer courthouse to the L & N railroad station, half a mile east. He lives in Atlanta now.*

After a beginning during a summer of almost incessant rain, in the year 1920, and many other handicaps and financial losses, the road was completed. It proved, as its friends predicted, a most convincing argument for roads and more roads.

But it was 1925, in the midst of vast reddish clouds of dust, before we began to break way in a terrific drought for a better road to Atlanta. This was one of the driest years of our history. But we went on with what means we had to meet this great challenge.

Reed or Reid

Early in the 1830s William Reed, a veteran of the Revolution, settled two miles or more east of Ellijay on the Cartecay river. Reed came from South Carolina. His wife was named Rebecca. The place where they first settled was known, not many years ago, as the Bennett place.

William Reed was an old man when he came here. But he served Gilmer as the third teacher to instruct in Gilmer academy. He was also commissioner of roads, his services in that capacity ending Sept. 13, 1838. The Reed family has been accorded an honor few families attained. It has a mountain named for it—like the Fowlers, the Aarons, and the Stovers. The impressive height named for the Reeds stands southeast of Ella Gap and a mile or two east of the old Tioga railroad station. It has a lookout tower on it.

Of the ten children of the original Reed couple, four were sons: Asa, Daniel, Levi, William; of the six daughters, one was Mrs. John Towers of Rome, Georgia, and others were Polly (Mrs. Benjamin Griffith), Frances (Mrs. Moses Greer), Charlotte (a Mrs. Long), Kesiah (Mrs. Joseph Clayton), Susan (Mrs. David McGlammery).

The name disappeared from Gilmer for a number of reasons besides removal. When the Reeds came here Dawson and Pickens county had not been formed and Gilmer joined Forsyth, so that members may have lived in territory cut off to form these newer counties or the name may have become extinguished in the marriage of the girls.

The family is widely related—to Griffiths, Bramletts, Stephenses, Loves, Ellingtons, Johnsons, Claytons. John H. Towers is mentioned more fully elsewhere. We have also mention of other Reeds, Asa, Berrie. Giddy (Gideon), John. A Reid family from the North is said to have contained Hamp and Frederic, Lonzo, Jeeter and William.

William Reid died prior to Jan. 1, 1841. William Reid Jr. administered his estate. The old man and his wife, Rebecca, were both buried on the farm of Benjamin Griffith, their son-in-law, one mile south of Ellijay. The place has been variously known as the Walking Stick farm, the Cobb farm and, in modern times, the Gentry place. The burial plot near the main house on this farm is much neglected and almost forgotten.

*Mr. Ray was born in Fannin county about two miles from the Gilmer line. His father, a gracious and diplomatic man, moved from Fannin county, which he had served as a member of its Board of Education, to Gilmer in 1911 or 1912. Clark entered Mercer Law school as a Gilmer boy.

His wife was the daughter of J. R. (Bud) Chastain, her name being Ophie. She was raised at the old Chastain home place near Morganton. For a long time her father was U. S. Commissioner. J. R. Chastain was the son of E. W. Chastain, and both men were lawyers. E. W. Chastain was a member of congress in his day.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Ray have a son, who is practicing law in Atlanta. He has three children.

William, the youngest son, came with his father to Gilmer, settling with his family on Talona Creek, six miles south of Ellijay, at a point known during this generation as Tioga, where iron mining was once developed. He emigrated to the West many years ago.

The family was noted for longevity, all 10 of the offspring having attained advanced age.

If we come down to the third generation of the family, descendants of the pioneer Reid couple become a legion. Among these are the Griffiths, Bramletts, Stephens, Ellingtons, Loves, Johnsons, Claytons, as well as Reids. These various descendants themselves nearly all raised large families. So that, by the sixth generation, they seemed numerous enough to compose a colony of their own, according to William Ellington II, who assisted with this record.

Commenting upon the descendants, Mr. Ellington said, "None attained pre-eminent distinction. But it can be truthfully said of them in general they were people of fair intelligence; good average citizens, excellent types of the great predominant middle class of our social ranks. While some might be called belligerant, engaging in occasional vigorous fisticuffs, I do not recall that one was ever charged with a serious crime."

Of John H. Towers* of Rome it may be said that at least one has attained great preeminence. His fame was attained when he commanded the fleet of airplanes, said to have been the first, that crossed the Atlantic. On the maternal side, he is descended from Gilmer stock. While his relationship to Gilmer people may be somewhat distant, due to lapse of time, it is genuine, basic.

William Ellington II, when he was 82, said he could remember the original William Reid. He also gave it as his opinion that the distinguished aviator John H. Towers was of the third generation from the pioneer Reids of Gilmer.

A picture of Captain Towers, with interesting data about him, appeared in the Atlanta Constitution of Monday, March 21, 1938. His promotion, scheduled for June following, was to the position of Assistant Chief of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics. On Oct. 22, 1939, newspapers announced that John Henry Towers as rear admiral in the United States Navy and chief of the Naval Bureau of Aeronautics. Other promotions probably followed those.

While recently a resident of Washington, he was born at Rome Jan. 30, 1885, the son of William M. and Mary Norton Towers. He attended the Georgia School of Technology, and, in 1902, entered the Naval Academy, from which he was graduated in 1906. He was assigned to the U. S. S. Kentucky, on which vessel he made the round-the-world cruise of 1907-09. He was assigned to the U. S. S. Michigan in 1910.

In June 1911 he was ordered to aviation duty. His career has paralleled the development of the Navy since his entrance into the academy.

He spent the summer of 1903, as a midshipman, aboard the windjammer U. S. S. Hartford, where he learned wooden ships. His career thus began with the passing of sail vessels and early naval efforts to take to air. He was one of the first three naval officers assigned to aviation duty, flying the first navy plane in 1911.

After the first World War, Capt. Towers was given duty in connection with a proposed trans-Atlantic flight. He organized and commanded a unit of flying boats, known as the "NC" type, which in May 1919 made the first trans-Atlantic flight in the history of the world.

* A John R. Towers represented Floyd county 1873-74.

In the summer of 1947, he was referred to as Admiral Towers and as "former chief of naval aircraft purchases." On Dec. 5 of the same year the Navy formally announced that Admiral John H. Towers, 62-year-old "father of naval aviation," had retired from active duty to head a civilian scientific research foundation. Admiral Towers died in New York Saturday, April 30, 1955.

Roach

Jonathon Roach was an early settler on Town Creek. But the name has long since disappeared from the County.

Robb

For two generations Robert Henry Robb gave himself to educational and religious leadership in the hills. Born at the foot of Bessy Bell Mountain in Ulster, Ireland, he grew up among his native people. He was twenty miles from Londonderry, "maiden city of Northern Ireland that successfully resisted William the Third and observes July 12 as the victory of Boyne." Ancient cannons known as "roaring Megs" still top its grim walls.

Young Robert's father owned a farm, which he thriftily enlarged and on which the lad, from a small boy, had helped to raise flax—important there as cotton used to be to a Georgia farmer—potatoes, oats, turnips. He decided to emigrate, and took a train to Londonderry. He set sail from the old sod the middle of May 1870, when he was 18 years old. He was glad to take third-class passage. It took 17 days to New York. Settling at Philadelphia, he learned to run a stationary engine.

At 19 he began to study his Bible. He often looked out of his window at the frozen Delaware river. And there was no heat in his hotel room. This impaired his health. But the engine room was comfortable. He decided to unite with the Methodist church.

The turning point in his life was when he met the impressive Jerome Spilman, the Nebraska-born worker in northern Georgia, who came to Georgia in 1867. Robb and Joseph H. Smith decided to come back to Georgia with Spilman. Two other young men, Powell and Boyd, decided also, two months later to come. The specific task of young Robb was to assist L. D. Ellington on a preaching circuit at Jasper, Georgia.

He arrived at Dalton the last of June 1875. He was sick, but was sympathetically cared for in the home of Nathaniel P. Harben, father of Will N. Harben, the novelist. Mr. Harben had a substantial brick home on Thornton Avenue.

After recuperating less than a week, Mr. Robb went over the Cohutta mountains eastward toward his new locations. It was while passing the Morris home on this trip that he was startled by the hum of a spinning wheel turned by old lady Morris. The Sunday following his arrival in Gilmer he spoke in Ellijay. He went on down to Pickens county, remaining there 18 months.

He was forced by ill to retire for a year to the home of James L. Fowler, who lived the abundant life eight miles east of Gainesville. He then tended churches in Dawson and Lumpkin counties, staying as a guest in so many homes without mirrors that, in his words, he "forgot what manner of man he was."

In the fall of 1878 he was appointed to the Ellijay Circuit of his church. The first year he spent with L. D. Ellington in the Owltown community, Ellington being now presiding elder of the Dalton district. Robb had nine churches. Ellington moved on to Gainesville. Mr. Robb then went to live with B. M. Hipp, who had come back from the Jasper charge to live again at Ellijay.

Mr. Robb was appointed presiding elder of the Gainesville district, and went there to live. He married Miss Nannie M. Auten of Atlanta Feb. 21, 1882. He remained at Gainesville till the fall of 1884. Upon his return to Ellijay, his wife taught some the summer of 1886 in Gilmer County. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Robb had taught in the schools of Atlanta.

At Ellijay Doctor Robb (as he came to be called) served the community in the capacity of both minister and teacher, as recorded in our discussion of mission schools.

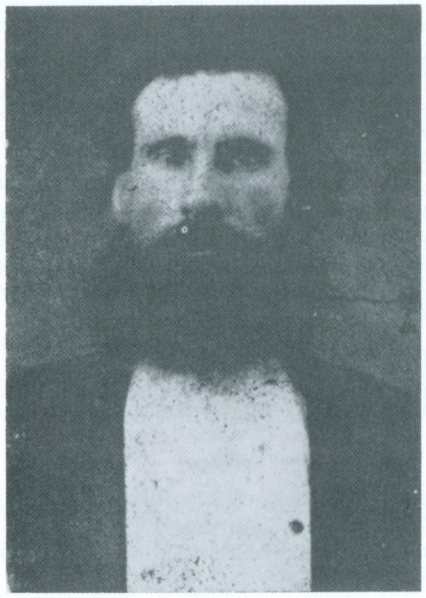
Dr. Robb died in Atlanta March 10, 1937. His wife lived a little longer. Dr. Robb was 85 years old at his death. He made his home at 1069 Hemphill Avenue. Survivors, in addition to his widow, were a son, Dr. J. L. Robb, president of Tennessee Wesleyan college, Athens, Tenn., and a niece, Mrs. G. W. Stewart.

Roberts

John Roberts once owned the place across the Ellijay river opposite N. V. Fain farm in Boardtown district. It adjoined the old Cody place, the George Watkins home later. The Roberts place was later owned and occupied by John M. Ward, who moved there from Brier creek soon after the Civil War.

Garrett Roberts once owned the land in the bend of the Ellijay river just east of the city of Ellijay. This land was later known as the Tankersley farm. Garrett Roberts owned, also, considerable property in Ellijay. His home place came to be known as the Kelley place, and later still as a part of the Cicero Logan estate.

Alfred B. Roberts was an early figure in Gilmer. It is on record that in 1851 he bought from John McKinney a 16 year old Negro boy, named Joe whom he warranted to be of sound mind and body. He paid $563 for the lad.



R. Z. (ZEMRI) ROBERTS

R. Z. (Zemri) was a prominent citizen and landowner in his day. He died in 1902. His wife, Margaret S. Roberts, was born April 4, 1842, and died July 3, 1906. This couple seems to have been childless. He and Garrett were brothers.

We recall several other families of this name. One of these was another Zemri, whose sister was the first wife of J. H. Penland of Ellijay. He might be called Zemri II as he was a nephew of the original Zemri Roberts. Zemri II was the son of Jim Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Roberts.

The only Negro family resident in Gilmer County is that of Floyd Roberts. His grandfather, Granville Roberts, is supposed by Floyd's family to have borne the name of some white family in North Carolina, from which state some member of the Cox family brought Granville to Gilmer.

Floyd Roberts and his wife, who used to teach the Negro children of Gilmer as long as we had a school of them, have raised eight children. The children have been transported to a Negro school in Pickens, the county adjoining Gilmer on the south.

Rogers

C. N. (Newt) Rogers was born June 30, 1847, in Buncombe county, North Carolina. During the migration of his family to this county his grandmother took turns carrying him and driving the family cow. He had a brother named Dolphus and a sister called Rene. In all, this family numbered six children—Lillie, Lena, Lula, girls, and Julius, Amos and Ben, boys. Descendants of this honored family are still numbered among our citizenship.

James Rogers also came in the early days. He was survived by three daughters—Barbara, Elizabeth and Mary, all of whom lived to old age. He and a number of relatives made their home about Pleasant Hill, on a place that came to be known as the Jamie Rogers farm. Dave Rogers also settled near them. He left a son named Fate.

Bill Rogers once lived on the Champion place, Boardtown, later occupied by John B. Kincaid and at one time owned by Henry Grady III. He migrated from North Carolina, also, but seems to have grown up principally in Rabun county. Later he made his home in the Turniptown section. His death was sudden. Having left Osborn Holt's grist mill, he laid his sack of meal on a footlog, lay down and apparently died from a sudden attack such as heart failure.

Rens (or Rans) Rogers of the Turniptown area is still recalled by older people. He helped John M. Ward mine gold during the late 1880s after railroad excavating revealed gold in a new place. The spot is commemorated by the name, on the railroad, "Gold Mine Cut," just north of the point where a new public road crosses the railroad south of White Path.

The neighborly Charley Rogers, who died a few years ago in Cherry Log district, was probably not born in Gilmer County. But he spent most of his life here. He married John Wishon's daughter, who survives. There were several children, also, who have become a part of our citizenship.

Ross

"Soon after" 1831, Martin Ross arrived from North Carolina. He settled, for the first year or so of his stay, just west of the Cartecay river opposite the Will McHan place. It was the same land as that occupied by Ozias Holden at one time.

Mr. Ross was a Democrat and a blacksmith, though without church affiliations.

He bought (he may have rented from Mr. Holden at first), later, a place of his own, where his widow continued to live long after his day. Esteemed generally, he was said to have been helpfully disposed toward neighbors, often supplying creature needs among them. Among the people about him he left a memory deeply cherished.

In 1881 his widow still occupied the old homestead with an only daughter, who was still unmarried. Mrs. Ross was reputed to have fully matched the spirit of her husband in kindness and liberality toward neighbors. After the death of her husband, she had joined a Baptist church.

Wade Ross, Confederate veteran, a citizen of Boardtown for many years, was known for his quiet disposition and his harmless manner of life. He raised a number of children. His home in Gilmer was in a little isolated valley northwest of the Jones mill. Ross's family moved away from Gilmer County many years before he died. But he liked to come back to stay a while during the summer. He loved the old home community and neighbors, and appears to have continued to do this as long as he was physically able.

A family of this name has but recently come to Ellijay, and may have disposed of its business interests here.

Satterfield

Larkin Satterfield came to Ellijay about 1835 from Habersham county. He occupied the house once owned by W. P. King, and where the Bishops had a store many years ago, probably the Waters Brothers store location of today.

Satterfield made some additions to the house and opened a grocery store and a place of entertainment (boarding and lodging house). The old roads toward Copper Hill and Dalton passed by here.

Described as "clever (hospitable), honest, energetic," he soon gained admirably in the confidence of the people. Like most of the stopping places of the old days, that of Mr. Satterfield supplied liquor. The man also knew harness making. He it was that was there when John Howard Payne and a small party of friends passed through. The distinguished visitor requested Mr. Satterfield to mend the harness of the visitors' horses.

After a few years, having sold his Ellijay property, Mr. Satterfield removed to Murray county. Later still he settled in Cass county. During this period of his life he had some trying experiences. His oldest son, Lumpkin, was killed by a man named Terrell. The slain man left a widow and several small children to the care of his father.

Later in Cartersville Larkin Satterfield met this same Terrell, who reportedly picked trouble with Satterfield. A row ensued, and Terrell was killed. Satterfield was indicted for murder. But, in the subsequent trial, he satisfied the court that he had acted in self-defense. Afterward he sometimes wept in discussing the incident with friends.

The last we hear of Mr. Satterfield he was living near Cartersville in the 1880s. He was maintaining himself by honest toil. He bore the reputation of a worthy citizen. Politically, he was Democratic, without church affiliations.

Sims

Billy Sims, father of Mrs. Lou Plemmons of Boardtown, long lived on a place, in Cherry Log district, that was once occupied by Ned Stewart and, later by Cleve Smith and others.

During the Civil War Billy Sims sold this farm to Madison Bates and moved farther down the Ellijay river to the place opposite the N. V. Fain farm and now owned by Luke Whitaker.

In 1859 Sims went to the Rocky Mountains to mine. He was there surrounded by hostile Indians, as stated in his last letter home. He is supposed to have been massacred.

This has always been a rare name in Gilmer. Descendants of Mrs. Lou Plemmons are the only people even related to Billy Sims of whom we have record.

Simmons

James Simmons was one of the first settlers of Gilmer County, as it was first laid out. He was the progenitor of most if not all the members of this family that have lived in the County, and of course is related to as many more who are not named Simmons.

Mr. Simmons established himself two miles northwest of Jasper on the old Federal road, a spot deep in Pickens county since 1854. His house, with 11 rooms as at present adapted, was a stopping place for drovers and other types of travelers. His business proved profitable.

As, at that time, there were very few houses on the road at which travelers were entertained, conditions naturally channeled to Mr. Simmons quite a financial advantage.

His place had a wide reputation as one of the best stopping places on the road. The weary traveler usually knew that here awaited the best accommodations in the form of choice foods, comfortable beds, as well as prime care for beasts of burden so necessary to every traveling party of those days.

The old Simmons home still stands, as if brooding, by the highway, as it did 130 years or more ago. It is usually occupied. Giant oaks that stood in the yard a few years ago were probably planted as tiny sprouts about the time the house was erected. Black walnut trees just northwest of the house recently marked the site of old Fort Talking Rock. This, another of the truly historic houses in northern Georgia, should be preserved for its historic interest.

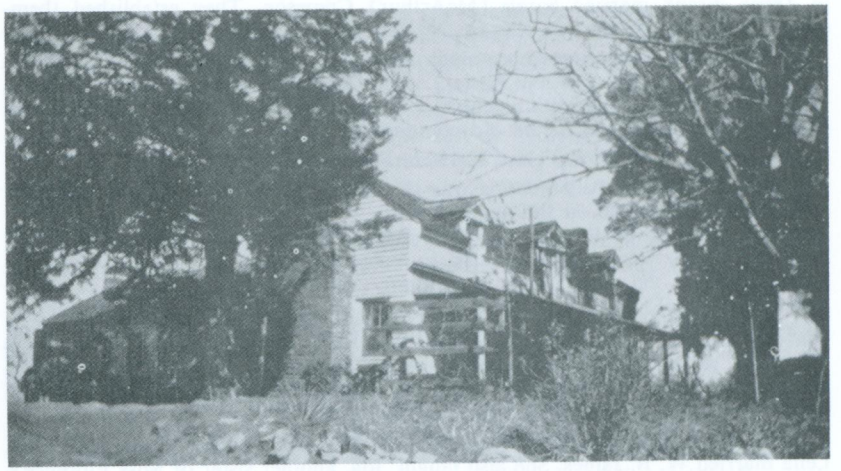
Mr. Simmons was evidently a very sturdy man, for as late as 1880 B. B. Quillian described him as "in the prime of life." Highly energetic and industrious, he seemed never idle. When not in his fields, he might be in his own shop doing his own smithing.

But he did not let the hurry and confusion of life keep him from discharging social obligations and attending his church. He supported the cause of religion in proportion to his generous interest in it. Preachers of different faiths were welcomed to his home. He seemed never to tire of extending hospitality and a neighborly spirit.

Mr. Simmons reared quite a large family—long since much scattered. Before he had passed the active period of his life, his children had all settled on their own at a distance. Adolphus, his oldest son, died in Virginia during the War between the States; the rest of the children were still alive many years later.

His first wife died before attaining more than a moderate age. She had proved herself most helpful to her husband and their family of children. In energy and industry, she fully matched Mr. Simmons himself. After her death, he married a Miss Wilson, sister to Mrs. W. R. Coleman. At the beginning of the 1880s he and his wife were still living together.

Neighbors considered Mr. Simmons to have been fortunate in his choice of a second wife, who filled very acceptably her role of housewife and partner generally in his affairs. She was intelligent and industrious and of good appearance and attainments. She seemed to find her chief satisfaction in keeping "Uncle Jimmie" cheered and in comfort.



OLD JAMES SIMMONS HOME

Used also as an inn on the old Federal road, it was built in Indian days, and has escaped the usual exigencies of time for 130 years or more. It stood in old Gilmer, and is the only old inn left.

For four years, during the Civil War, Simmons represented the 41st senatorial district in the Georgia legislature. And he was long after sustaining his high place in the esteem of his neighbors. Long a member of the Methodist church (from his youth), he did much for the success of his church.

A Whig of the ancient vintage, he was a member of the Secession convention that passed the act of separation from the national Union. But Mr. Simmons refused to sign the act of secession. In 1854, with the formation of Pickens county, the Simmons home on the old Federal road was shifted to that county, and no doubt Mr. Simmons represented Pickens in the convention.

William Simmons is recorded as having married the daughter of Roberta Ray. He is said to have lived—at least at one time—on Talona creek "above the Ray homestead." Here he was residing many years later.

Mr. Simmons was referred to by those who knew him as a man superior in a number of ways. Financially, he was well supplied. He was energetic, industrious; of moral tone and fiber. He owned iron ore deposits that appear to have been identical with, or adjacent to some known as Tioga and worked considerably during the early years of this century.

William Simmons raised a large family, numerous members of which lived in the old home community long after his day. In politics he was a Democrat, and was inclined to the Baptists in faith. He had the confidence of neighbors generally.

John Simmons and his wife Anne arrived in Gilmer in 1861. The couple brought their five children—four sons and one daughter—Marvin, Craph, Jackson, Frank and Lou. This family settled in Ball Ground district on what was known as the Bearden farm.

Marvin and Craph served in the Confederate army. Marvin was killed in action there. Craph did not return to adjust himself once more to his old home community. Jackson, often referred to as Dick, married Georgia Ann Brannon, settling down thereafter for several years. He and his family at length migrated

to Texas. Frank married Sarah (McArthur) Compton. They established themselves on a farm which was also in the Ball Ground district.

To this last couple were born eight children: John W., Elisha D., Charlie C., Walter F., Linzie W., Joe B., Rosie J. and Dessie. Of these, three, Elisha D., Walter and Dessie, were within recent years, still living in Gilmer County; some of them, not long since, in the old community.

Sarah Simmons died Feb. 12, 1922; Frank, June 25, 1924.

Pioneer William A. Simmons was the father of William Adolph Simmons, who died Dec. 9, 1960, at the age of 99.

The children of William Adolph (William A. II) were: Frank, Morris C., Louis T., Mary Emma and Ella Bessie. Frank and Louis T. are reported as deceased.

L. M. (Mel) Simmons was born Nov. 11, 1854. He died June 29, 1922. His children were Florence, born June 20, 1884, dying Oct. 25, 1963. "Miss Florence," as she was generally called, began teaching in our rural schools when she was 16 years old. She also taught at Oakland and Ellijay. Miss Florence headed our welfare services the first several years.

Efford, a son, is deceased; Sewel, another son, is dead. Paul still lives. Leila married W. B. James. She also taught. Ida, another sister of Miss Florence's, became Mrs. Howard Perry; Claudia married V. W. Thayer.

Howard Simmons, well known among the active generation, is a former rural mail carrier and has engaged in selling of autos at Ellijay the last few years. He is a son of Rev. Walter Simmons.

Sisson

The name Sisson was represented in the County before the Indians were gone. Dick is the first one of whom we have record. But David, one of the most popular of his clan, did not arrive until about May 1, 1847.

The high tide of beauty rolling through the hills at this time of year, with parti-colored splashes of wild azalea, known as honeysuckle, dogwood, wild apple, sweet shrub and promise of laurel and rhodo soon to come must have welcomed the esthetic eye of Sisson and his musical family. All wended their slow way by Dahlonega, thence to Ellijay, then up the Boardtown road to the Os Miller place, half a mile north of Buckhorn, in Boardtown district.

The first home of David Sisson was erected at a point marked later by a big walnut tree that grew by the side of the road and nearer the public road than was the Sissons' house. This means it was on the west side of the Frady creek and just back of the old family spring. This house was still crumbling 65 years ago.

David Sisson's father, William Sisson, was said to have been a veteran of the Revolution. He never came to Georgia, but appears to have lived and died in a state farther east—probably North Carolina. Old timers remembered a tradition that he was a musician in the patriot army.

They said, further, that during his last years he was dropsical. But he never lost his love for his fiddle. In fact, during his last illness, when told he had but a few hours to live, he sat up in bed, called for his fiddle and played "Down the Middle" or whatever else his heart suggested. He then handed back the fiddle to an attendant, and shortly after died.

David Sisson acquired the lands about him. His initial purchase was for 450 acres of land, an acreage subsequently expanded to 600. And the price of his first purchase was $150. In those days. His land took in the present site of Buckhorn Baptist church. Though he seldom attended worship, he donated to

those disposed to do so sufficient land for a church, in which a school could be taught, space for a justice court, a polling place, and for a cemetery.

Besides two daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth, both of whom became the wives of Bradley Hallford, David Sisson reared sons—Allen, Ira, Pearson, and Charlie. Ira (still remembered by many yet living in the County) was a musician of note, being generally conceded to be the best of fiddlers. Though he could play other instruments. He served in the Confederate army and returned home without suffering a scratch. His brother Charlie, also a musician, was killed in the Confederate ranks. Others of the boys may have served in the Confederate army. Jack Dodd, discussed in next paragraph, joined the Union army.

David Sisson also raised a number of other boys who grew up as members of his own household. He did not, apparently, adopt them but permitted them to bear their own names. Two of these were Jack Dodd and George Holloway. Mr. Holloway lived sturdily to an advanced age. The Sisson household was an unusually happy and gifted group for a pioneer one. The solace and inspiration and pure delight of folk music was prominent in its daily life.

Ira Sisson, born in Habersham county, Georgia, five miles from Clarkesville, June 8, 1835, came to Gilmer when he was 12 years old. He was a mature man when he left the County, which he occasionally visited again and to which he longed at times to return and spend the rest of his days. He died at Kingston, Ga., Dec. 6, 1915.

Bart Sisson of upper Boardtown and Pearson of Cash's Valley were among the Gilmer Sisson clan surviving until the latter years. The Sissons are usually an admirably friendly people. They have mental quality and are disposed to charity of thought and act. They have a knack for construction, designing, carving and building, as well as aptitude in music and getting along with people. Some migrated northward, a number settling in the Copper Hill area. Among these were Allen and Morgan.

Smith

Even in our telephone directory the Smiths are not the most numerous name. But they have been here since very early in our history.

Ralph Smith was a judge of the inferior court. He came here from Habersham county. The oldest of five children, all of whom came to Gilmer, he was among the earliest settlers. By 70 years ago all members of this family, with the exception of Gideon, were dead. And Gideon had removed to Whitfield county. Described as "a clever man and a good neighbor," he nevertheless reportedly liked his dram; was harmless, however, when drinking. He held a good perspective in his views on subjects to which he had given thorough thought.

A brother of Ralph was named Wright Smith. He settled in the vicinity of Turniptown. He had a good appearance and managed his personal affairs fortunately. But he died quite young, leaving a handsome wife and several small children.

These pioneers left numerous descendants.

Nathan Smith is mentioned in our list of Union soldiers. He had a son also named Nathan. Other members of the family were Bill, Nannie, Bess, Charlie, Jim, Cao, Vicie, Altha, and Callie (Mrs. Tom Defoor).

Robert Smith, in the fall of 1833, came to Gilmer from Rabun county, settling in the Cartecay neighborhood. He bought and occupied a tract of land where T. W. Tabor lived more than two generations ago. After three years, he sold out to Henry Wikle. He then removed to a place upon which Reuben Ayres had lived and where he resided at the time of his death. Mr. Smith then moved to a place later occupied by S. D. Allen, his son-in-law.

He remained there until he died. He was remembered as having good common sense and as a man of thrift and industry; he was reputedly of neighborly quality. His family was of like nature.

His oldest son was J. B. Smith. Mrs. G. W. Heath was a daughter. His second son, Andrew, moved westward. The youngest son, R. L., was reported (this was near 100 years ago) as being a highly respected Gilmer citizen in prosperous circumstances. He was said also to have been hospitable, enjoying much confidence and esteem among neighbors. His children were credited with having inherited his neighborly qualities.

He married a daughter of "Captain Kell." His wife's qualities of excellence were praised by B. B. Quillian, who asserted she was a woman of regular and faithful church attendance. She and her husband were both Methodists. Mr. Smith died before the Civil War; and, in his passing, preceded his wife.

J. S. (Scott) Smith is remembered by many living persons in Boardtown and Cherry Log districts. He served these districts as justice of the peace and, at Cherry Log village, as postmaster. A distinguishing characteristic of Mr. Smith was a full reddish beard. It was generally understood he had never shaved.

But he good naturedly admitted he once keened up his pocket knife and tried to shave with that. He also had an accident reminding one of Capt. Miles Standish on the way over. He was one night reading Washington Irving by a small open flame. Falling asleep, his head sagged forward putting his beard into the flame and setting it afire. A spirited skirmish put the fire out.

Mr. Smith (that being his real name) was brought up by Jack Burch, and inherited his estate, Mr. and Mrs. Burch being otherwise childless. He might be said to have been fortunate in having been born in 1850. For, when he was old enough to enter school at Buckhorn, he found the school directed by Landrine J. Tatum, from whom he received much sound instruction both in school studies and the art of living wisely.

He married Miss Julie Ann Patterson, of a pioneer family. She died in 1899. Of their children, several survive. C. H. (Homer) is a successful business man of Atlanta. His brother G. C. (Cleve) also lives in Atlanta. Mrs. John Holt is one of the girls. She had sisters, Mary Lou and Arzelia. Another brother, Dock, lives in California.

John, Manuel Lee and James H. would complete a list of the family. Though several of these are deceased already. Dock Smith leads the clan in his sympathy for bird and animal life in general. He can coax wild jays to come down out of the surrounding trees and eat out of his pockets.

All these people are intelligent and have commendable qualities as friends.

Mont Smith of East Ellijay was a widely known member of the Smiths of the County. A record of some of his personal qualities and activities appeared in the Atlanta Journal Magazine of May 18, 1924. He married a daughter of Rev. A. M. Johnson. He lived near the White Path area when the hotel there was still very much alive with guests during the summer. He had quite a hand in transporting hotel guests and their luggage to and from the railroad passenger depot called, in those days, White Path. Sometimes his tasks took him till four o'clock in the morning. Mr. Smith died in May 1952.

He was survived by his widow and a son Hoke of East Ellijay and two daughters, Mrs. Janice Davenport and Mrs. Mable Ward of the same community. Mrs. Ward has lived in Florida for the last few years. Robert Smith is among contemporaries. He married Miss Leastie Woodring, deceased in recent years. His sons are Jace Q. and Willie. Numerous other Smiths, from our very foundation, are mentioned in this record.

Sorrels

Samuel J. Sorrels was an interesting member of this family. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, May 16, 1867, he remained there until he was five years old. He was an adopted child of David Sorrels and his wife, Julia, who, by blood, was a great-aunt of Samuel's.

The three arrived at Ellijay March 2, 1872. On May 16, 1872, the family moved to the top of Flat Mountain, where he attended school later under Joe Walker. Before he left Ellijay for the mountain, however, he got a month of schooling under Tom Craigo. This was in the first year of public schools, and the Ellijay Seminary did not open for two years yet.

The Sorrelses remained on Flat Mountain until Nov. 2, 1879, on which date the family descended from the mountain and slowly lumped their way over incredible roads bound for Dalton. They were traveling by cart. There they entrained for Seymore, Indiana, where Mr. and Mrs. Sorrels were to follow the trade of tailors. There David Sorrels died early in March 1881.

Two weeks later, March 16, 1881, Mrs. Sorrels and Samuel left Indiana. The purpose of their stay there was to earn and save money to buy 700 acres of land on Flat Mountain at one dollar an acre. In those days the flattish top of the mountain contained a lot of cultivable land.

The two arrived safely back in Gilmer. They reached the top of Flat Mountain once more about the first day of April 1881. Samuel Sorrels remained that summer with his Aunt Julia and helped her make a crop on the mountain. About July 7 of that year, he left the mountain and went to Ludville, in Pickens county, to live. His aunt gathered her crop that fall and sold her land. Samuel remained at Ludville 26 years. While there he married and raised three children. His wife died many years before him, about 1895. He died around 20 years ago.

Mr. Sorrels sometimes appeared on the amateur stage to sing ballads and other folk songs. He knew the real folk tunes and brought them forth on such occasions. In fact, he was well informed on back country lore in general, loved it, and told it charmingly. Some of the most dramatic frontier tales ever told on the subject of pioneer life in Gilmer County were related by this man, who spent his most eager, formative years in our backwoods in an environment not only stimulating but inspiring.

He attended school on the mountain, as related elsewhere; again at Zion Hill, boarding meanwhile with Lindsey Harper. He also attained further schooling at Talking Rock, Jerusalem community, and at Fairmount. The principal part of his education was obtained after he was 30 years old. He studied by correspondence, was in normals four years, finally graduating with the equivalent of high school, when he was 60 years old, from the summer school for teachers formerly conducted at Ellijay.

Spencer

Among early Gilmer settlers was Tisdell Spencer, from South Carolina. Another man of this family, Joe, lived in the East Ellijay community, and was mentioned in connection with the death of William Craigo. But no descendants or other people of this name have resided in Gilmer for many a year.

Spilman

The work and spirit of Jerome Spilman so profoundly affected Gilmer that this man eminently deserves individual treatment. His labors both in the ministry and education in connection with the Ellijay Seminary mark him with distinction.

He was born in Milton, Kentucky, Sept. 5, 1835, and died in Atlanta, Georgia, Nov. 25, 1899.

About 1855 he graduated at Greencastle, Indiana, whereupon he entered upon the Methodist ministry. He was the first missionary of his faith in Nebraska while that state was still a territory. He was located at a place called Fontanell, forty miles west of Omaha.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he entered the service of the Union army, becoming chaplain of an Iowa cavalry troop called "Curtis' Horse," in which capacity he served several months. Resigning that position, he raised a company of infantry at Washington, Indiana, and was made captain of it. Continuing in this connection from 1862, he served until the close of the war. He was wounded at Jackson, Mississippi.

After the war he moved south. For several years he was presiding elder of the North Georgia Conference. He then abandoned the ministry for a business life. He was buried in the National Cemetery at Marietta, Georgia.

He left a son, Josiah Harvey, usually known as Harry, who later lived in Atlanta. Harry wanted to be a lawyer. His father wanted him to study to become a minister; and, with that in view, packed him off to East Tennessee Wesleyan university, where he was in school with Tom Craigo.

Harry balked at the study of Greek. The teacher of that subject remanded him to the president, a wiry little rather fractious man with a red head. Calling Harry to the edge of the chapel platform, he collared the refractory youth and shook him vigorously. Harry tapped him over with the prescribed Greek text. One deft blow and the chief was out. Harry scurried from the place.

And about the time the president began to wonder, Where am I? young Spilman was asking himself: Where am I going? He dared not go home. He arranged with a druggist (by the IOU route) to go west. He went back to Nebraska, where he was born in 1860, and began punching cattle. And to this he stuck till he could thoroughly feel out the situation back home.

In fact this Peck's tough boy was into more than that escapade. He and Tom Craigo and Dixie Watkins plugged up a live and irritable hornet's nest and concealed it under the mourner's bench of one of his father's tent meetings.

The brisk subsequent activities and violent tramplings of a still later period of the services burst the nest and stirred it all about. The hornets were said to have created as much consternation as pain, scattering the crowd. A reward of $50 was offered for the miscreants who had done this deed.

But the boys kept the secret. And Harry said when we saw him that if it had been known that the presiding elder's son was in this conspiracy to scatter there might have been a riot ending in a lynching in town, with himself caught in a withering cross fire as the minimum expectation for himself.

Mr. Spilman, who has furnished me valuable data on his own and his father's careers, married Miss Margaret Bisaner in 1883. Both were alive and active, for their age, some 20 years ago.

After the Civil War, the first move of Jerome Spilman southward was to Huntsville, Alabama, to work in the ministry again. From there he moved to Augusta, Georgia. In or about 1869 he came to Atlanta. He was appointed presiding elder of the Dalton district of his church. He went to Marietta about 1871. For two years he lived at Dalton.

It was in those days that he went to Philadelphia and interested R. H. Robb and others in coming south and laboring in mission and other foundation work in north Georgia and Gilmer County in particular. In those days, also, the

Ellijay Seminary was born in the mind and heart of this able and effective man, forceful and strong of will, as discussed under the treatment of the school.

When Jerome Spilman left upper Georgia, he went to Marietta—to the same place he left when he removed to Dalton.

We no longer find Harry in the Atlanta telephone directory, a clue that led me to him in the first place. But there is one other name with that identical spelling in the telephone book.

Starks

This popular family has long been represented in Ellijay district, especially in the Newhope community a few miles northwest of Ellijay.

Earliest members are said to have come from North Carolina. Among these were Thomas and Katie, his spouse. Two sons of this couple were stated by older members of the family to have served in the Confederate army. These sons were John (W. J.) and Jeff (J. F.). Lewis S. was another son. There were daughters, Lou and Lydia.

Of more modern Starkses we might mention Howard. Walter and Ed are his sons. Homer is a half-brother to Willie, who has spent a number of his active years in the North, notably in Ohio. There he was responsibly connected as foreman with industrial plants.

Here he has charge of the involved mechanism of our much enlarged and centralized public school plants. His work and oversight are with electric pumps and the power supply for numerous other uses. The physical upkeep and adaptation, in detail, of buildings is in his charge. The County is fortunate that Mr. Starks was resident in it when we took over our new buildings.

In fact the county board of education, including J. E. Weeks, county school superintendent, with whom Mr. Starks is associated in his work, are to be heartily commended for their choice of him for this responsibility. He has also been retained to work with Kenneth Beaver, new superintendent of Gilmer schools.

Variously mentioned in an earlier version of this History completed about 1937 and deposited in the Archives of History, 1516 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, are other members of the Starks family:

Bunice, Mrs. Elmer, Holten, J. H., Jane, Julia, Nance, T. E., Tilda, W. A., Mrs. W. C.

The Starkses and their neighbors, many of whom are related to the Starks family, have exerted a marked influence upon the notable church work that has been going on at Newhope Baptist church for several generations.

The Tilda (or Matilda) Starks listed above is said to have been the widow of Jeff Starks, and is listed with Confederate widows added to pension rolls in 1937.

Steel

This is another pioneer name that has vanished from our County. Andy Steel was an early settler on Town creek. The nearest we can claim to this name is Stahl (German for Steel) in Boardtown district.

Stegall

The Stegalls were somewhat late comers to the County, but have been effective in their citizenship and loyalties to the public interest. Members have been faithful and intelligent in their attitudes to this undertaking and have willingly helped to enrich our background in word and deed.

Charles E., head of the family, was born Dec. 29, 1869, at Marble Hill, Pickens county. He was a son of John and Elizabeth (Fitzsimmons) Stegall and a grandson of Henry T. Fitzsimmons, who built the first marble mill and opened the first quarries for marble in Georgia in 1836, at Longswamp, Ga. (now Marble Hill, Pickens county). C. E. attended North Georgia college when it was called "agricultural."

Mr. Stegall married May Prather of Jasper April 16, 1905. The couple resided at Jasper till 1935. Having served with the United States Treasury department in an appointment which began Nov. 9, 1900, Mr. Stegall retired in 1935, and the same year removed to Gilmer and began rebuilding the Chase-Duckett mills on a shoal of the Cartecay river six miles east by slightly south of Ellijay. He died there.

C. E. Stegall Jr., once the popular surveyor of Gilmer County, furnished, some years ago, the militia district map of the County, which forms one of the authoritative cuts in this volume. We are much indebted to Mr. Stegall for the labor he put on this map and for his gracious willingness for us to use it.

Stephens

John Stephens was among the first settlers in Gilmer, arriving here about 1835. He married a sister to the mother of William Ellington II.

Manoah Stephens lived in Mountaintown district—back toward the mountains. He too was a pioneer. He and his son Jeptha lived together. Manoah was spoken of as of good mind but lacking in financial ability. B. B. Quillian first met him in 1821 and called him a man of character, "morality and strength in the truth."

From early manhood he had been a member of the Methodist church. Late in life he received a license to preach. He was well versed in the scriptures. On controverted points he could argue well. In fact he seemed informed generally, and enjoyed a wide confidence. He died in Alabama during Civil War days. A last request he made of his attendants was that his funeral be preached at a Baptist arbor near his old home, where a number of his relatives still lived. His son Jeptha and the wife of the son both lived, about the close of the Civil War, near Nashville, Tenn.

We cannot leave this family without mention of Thomas M. Stevens, still living in Ellijay at this time (Dec. 19, 1960). When he came to Ellijay in 1893 he found Bob and Ed Stephens living "below Ellijay." This usually means south of Ellijay.

He came from a farm three miles from Alpharetta in old Milton (now Fulton county). He was bent upon getting out of cotton country for good, as a terrific depression was on. A 400-pound bale of cotton was bringing about $15.

As Mr. Stephens was 89 last July 14, he is no longer "about" much. But he was once equal to tasks that required a sturdy reserve of brawn, careful planning and grim staying quality.

Let us hear him, spokesman for the honest laboring folk, tell us some of the more potent experiences of his life since he settled in Gilmer.

"When I came to Gilmer, I began work at what I could get for 50 cents a day. I tried railroading at trestle work. I also broke on a freight train that George Tankersley was conductor of. We ran from Marietta to Knoxville, Tenn., and the trip took us four days. I helped handle freight at stops. Sometimes we worked all night. I got one dollar a day—nothing extra for the night work.

"I did various other and odd jobs. For instance, Bunk Beatty and I dug out stables in the street bank for Dr. J. S. Tankersley. We gathered the flagstone that went into the construction. Above the horses' stalls we provided space for storing feeds. We set up chutes to send down, from this space, feed to the animals below.

"My work included the construction of a sidewalk all the way from the courthouse, by a route around the corner of the old field that is now divided by the new route, to the railroad depot. For this job I quarried flagstone on Sixty-one creek and at Drunkard springs by the Cartecay river. I delivered the rock where needed. I put water from the old Pump Springs into the Hyatt hotel (now the Gilmer County Courthouse).

In 1908 I set in carrying the mail on a star route that took me by Ollie, a post office operated by Julius Rogers, then I went by Tails Creek, another post office, in Tails Creek district, P. G. Hyatt, postmaster. Then I turned east to Roosevelt, J. G. Dover, postmaster, backtracking myself, I returned to Ellijay.

The first part of that year sticks in my memory as the worst weather I ever faced. It dropped at times below zero. One blizzard after another struck. Snow lay on the ground till away along in March. I quit this job in 1912."

Mr. Stephens has dug (or helped to dig) three wells along Dodge street, on which he lives. He not only found water in all of them but brought up enlightening objects for scientific study: watersmoothed flint rocks and recognizable pieces of poplar, or tulip, wood that lead us to believe the Ellijay river ran along this way once.

Mr. Stephens was scientist enough to recognize the value of his finds and preserved a number of them for quite a while.

Born July 14, 1871, Mr. Stephens continued living in Ellijay after he moved here. In 1902 he married Miss Mary Thompson of Murray county. To this union were born sons, Andrew, Virgil, J. T., John; and one daughter, Elizabeth, who is now Mrs. Otis Feathers. Mrs. Feathers lives next door to him and looks carefully after his daily creature needs.

Mr. Stephens died Feb. 17, 1961.

Stover

This family will be remembered for a special reason. Members of it have a mountain for their memorial. Stover mountain breaks off suddenly in a vast wall as it looks south over Cartecay district and other sections of the County and far beyond.

There is a tradition that a pioneer named Stover had the courage and hardihood to climb the mountain to the top, and finding good cold water welling up even at that height, he built a little cabin. He lived there with the deer, bears, eagles, turkeys, grouse and perhaps, most dangerous to companion with, wolves and panthers. But ample records of the only family ever known to live on the mountain are lacking. We are sure they lived there, and long enough to be honored with having their name applied to the mountain.

The written records of the Stovers have suffered some losses. But older members of the family have helped to restore many interesting facts. Roland Stover (born March 7, 1890) has proved a generous assistant at this.

His grandfather was named Elisha Stover, who settled in Diamond district "about the time the Indians were removed." Elisha married Miss Linda Long. Their children were John, Dave, Jake, Mart, all four of whom served in the Confederate army. There was another son named Bob; and two daughters, Sarah and Ruthie, completed the count.

John reared a son, Henry by name. Dave left no children. Jake never married, neither did Bob. Mart's son Sam grew up and settled down in Tickanetley. Sarah settled "below Atlanta." But Ruthie spent her life in Gilmer.

Elisha Stover was not only diligent in taking care of the present needs of his family, but looked into the future. He foresaw that the low land prices the pioneers found would not last. So he bought extra tracts for his family when its members grew up.

The children of H. R. (Roland) Stover are listed as Bertha, Ovie, Woodrow, Ollie, Charlie, Toy, Howard, Hall, Pauline.

Mrs. H. R. Stover died in February 1960. Her maiden name was Holden.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. are considerably scattered. But two sons, Woodrow and Charley, both live in Tickanetley.

Will, Joe, Ed Stover are some relation to H. R., Ed being a first cousin.

The Stover family has contributed a number of ministers to the religious life of Gilmer. Revs. Dave and M. J. were in fine favor with a past generation. Rev. A. W. belongs to our modern time.

The younger generations of this family have given and are giving a good representation of their name in our public schools.

Sumner

Solomon Sumner was among pioneers. He settled on a place long occupied by a son of his, Dave Sumner, some years deceased. He bought the land from Jonathon Osborn. The original acreage consisted of two lots, which would be, according to our original survey, 320 acres.

His wife's maiden name was Plemmons. Among his descendants were John who spent his life on a portion of the old home place. He had brothers, Jesse, Tom and Dave, now all deceased. A daughter was Mrs. William Gibson.

Descendants of John are Frank, Bill and Sol and several daughters.

The Sumners are characterized by tolerant and pleasant natures.

The original Sol Sumner was commissioned a major in the Confederate army.

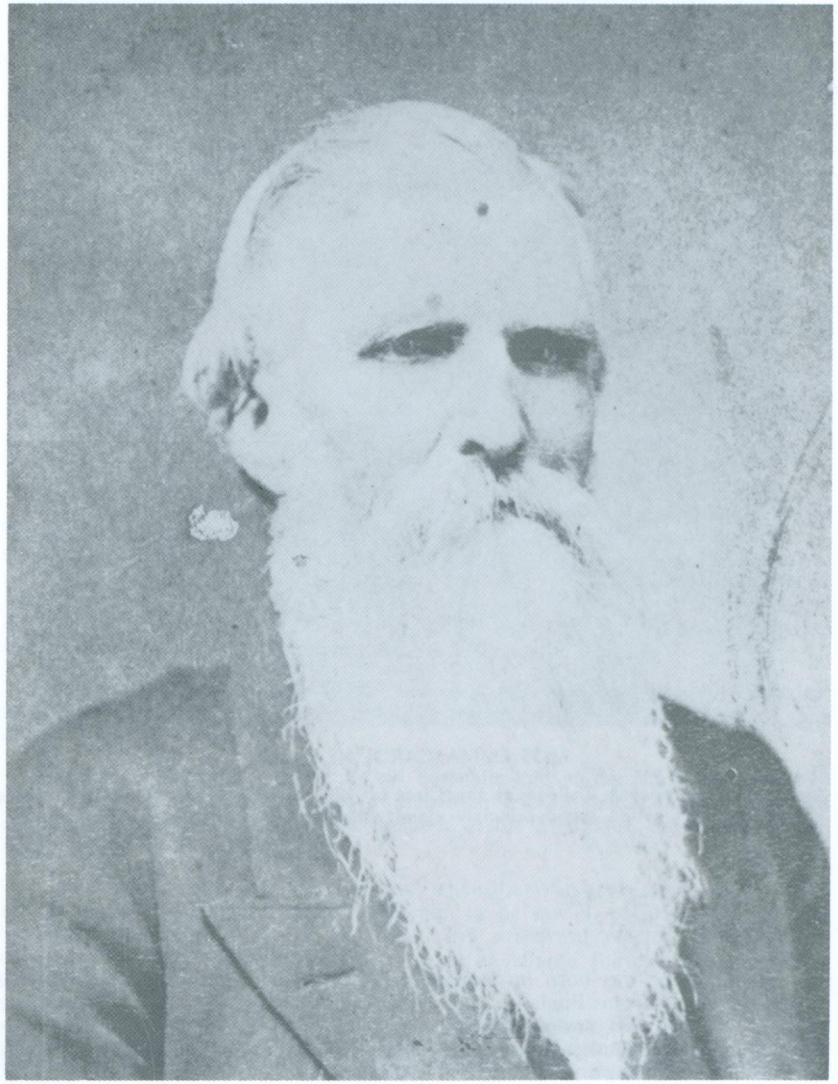
Stone

Lemuel Stone was a pioneer. He lived across a stream, referred to by pioneers as "the river," from Milton Davis, another early settler in Tickanetley district. He was one of the quietest, most harmless men known. He was earnestly disposed to do the right thing, hence he had few enemies.

After living in Gilmer several years, he removed to Texas, where he long since died. A son was John Stone, another resident of Gilmer. W. P. Stone was a well known citizen of Boardtown more than two generations ago. The maiden name of Mrs. R. L. Ayers was Stone, and some of the Claytons are related to this family.

Tabor

The fiftieth wedding anniversary of Capt. Nathan Thompson Tabor and Mrs. Jane Ester Tabor was celebrated at Cartecay in Gilmer County Sept. 26, 1899. Quite a throng of friends and relatives was present, and the occasion brought forth an array of historic fact and narrative that certainly should enrich local history.



CAPT. N. T. TABOR

MISS EMMA CAROLINE TABOR

Graduate of Wesleyan College of the Class of 1882, she devoted herself to teaching her people, inculcating sound principle along with sound knowledge.

Capt. Tabor was born in Sequatchie Valley, Tennessee, Oct. 12, 1820. His ancestors came from England and settled in Virginia. His great-grandfather, William Tabor, was ambushed while in battle and killed by the Indians in Virginia. His grandfather, John Tabor, was a Revolutionary soldier and fought in the battle of King's mountain and elsewhere.

His grandmother, being cut off from supplies by the British, rode 80 miles on horseback unattended, to obtain salt for family use while her husband was fighting in the cause of American freedom.

John Tabor had 10 sons and three daughters, all of whom raised families. Nathan Tabor, son of John Tabor and father of Capt. N. T. Tabor, was reared in Rutherford county, North Carolina. He married, in Kentucky, Elizabeth Condra, a daughter of James and Esther Condra, of Irish extraction, who had settled in that state.

Nathan Tabor moved to Sequatchie Valley, Tennessee, and remained there seven years, when he returned to North Carolina, his native state, settling in Macon county. He had five sons and six daughters.

Benjamin Condra, uncle of N. T. Tabor, was with General Jackson in the battle of New Orleans. John Condra, brother of Benjamin Condra, invented a machine to convert seed cotton into yarn.

Capt. N. T. Tabor had two sisters who celebrated their golden weddings. These were Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, wife of Rev. Noah Miller, Ladonia, Texas, and Mrs. Arena Miller, wife of John K. Miller of Denison, Texas. The former had at the time of the golden wedding of Capt. and Mrs. N. T. Tabor 125 descendants and the latter also had a numerous family.

In Macon county, North Carolina, Capt. N. T. Tabor grew to manhood. In this section he and Burton K. Dickey, the soul of honor, organized the firm of Dickey and Tabor. The firm did a flourishing mercantile and livestock business under verbal agreement for eight years. Both members of this firm lived first in Franklin, North Carolina, then in Athens, Georgia. They had five stores at these places and in White and Gilmer counties, in Georgia. The firm handled thousands of horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs. And members of the firm dissolved their partnership satisfactorily without the scratch of a pen, ever after remaining the best of friends.

In 1853 Captain Tabor located at Cartecay, Gilmer County, Georgia, for the benefit of his wife's health, which soon improved here; and, when she was 72, was still most excellent. Soon after locating at Cartecay Captain Tabor turned his attention to merchandising, agricultural pursuits, stock and land trading. Here he and a few neighbors erected, for that early day, an elegant country church. Afterwards a circulating library was promoted. And Oakland academy, a private high school, was established mainly by the efforts of Captain Tabor.

The good results of such institutions are plainly seen and forcibly felt today, the Cartecay neighborhood being noted for the splendid moral and religious tone of its people.

Captain Tabor was consistently an energetic and enterprising man privately and publicly a useful citizen; was a Mason in good standing, a Democrat, an outstanding neighbor and an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which he liberally supported.

Capt. Tabor never sought office; but, when the War between the States came on, he joined the Southern army in defense, as he saw it, of his home. He was appointed quartermaster of a battalion, and afterward elected captain of a company. He was in front of Sherman's hosts at Atlanta and elsewhere, and was at the front when the surrender came.

Captain Tabor was six feet tall and weighed some 165 pounds. He was always temperate, having refrained entirely from intoxicants after he was 18 years old. He took but little medicine, declining consistently to make "an apothecary's shop of his stomach." His favorite author was Shakespeare. He began taking the Atlanta Constitution when it was launched, and continued as a subscriber to it.

Mrs. J. E. Tabor was born in Buncombe county and educated at Asheville, North Carolina. Her father, Rev. David B. Cummings, was the first Methodist preacher sent into western North Carolina by the Holstein Conference. He organized the First Methodist church of Asheville. His circuit was then as large as a superintendent's district of today. It took him four weeks to get around it, and he preached every day except Monday.

The Holstein conference also sent him into the Cherokee (Georgia) country as presiding elder. At the close of the last century old people could still be found through north Georgia whom he had received into the church.

The Indians were here when he first came. They loved him as they did William Penn. Many of them were converted under his ministry. The red folk had but one feather bed, and this they conveyed to different points for the comfort of "the man sent by the Great Spirit."

Rev. David B. Cummings was still here when the Indians were removed in 1838. Soon after he was transferred to the Indian Mission conference. And, at his death at 84, he lived in southwest Missouri. He was here, as elsewhere, a preacher of great power.

Mrs. Tabor had two brothers—James and Jesse Cumming—who were Methodist ministers. They belonged to the St. Louis conference. She had six uncles who were ministers also. Her only sister married a preacher, Rev. John H. Robeson, father of L. B. Robeson of Atlanta who founded Oakland High school. Mrs. Tabor's mother was the daughter of Col. James Lowry, whose father, David Lowry, was also massacred by Indians. Col. James Lowry was representative of Buncombe county and counsel to the governor of North Carolina. He was half-brother to David Swaine, one-time president of the University of North Carolina and governor of that state.

From the Lane and Lowry families there were many descendants, some of whom were persons of note, including Governor David Swaine, Lt. Governor James Robeson, Gen. David Lowry, Col. Marion Lowry, Judge J. C. M. Gudger, Col. Walter Moore, grandmaster of the Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina; and the Siler, Gray, Gudger, Robeson, and Dickey families, all of North Carolina; Ex-Governor Lane of Oregon; Ex-Governor Colquit of Georgia as well as the Hills of Wilkes county, Georgia. Mrs. Tabor was of a long-lived family.

She had five aunts and one uncle who reached 75 to 89 years of age—Mrs. Elizabeth Gudger, Mrs. Lorena Henry and Col. Marion Lowry of Candler, North Carolina; Mrs. Harriet Dickey, Brasstown, North Carolina; Mrs. Louisa Patton, mother of James E. Patton, once cashier of the LaFayette (Ga.) bank; Mrs. Matilda Gray, mother of Lt. Governor Robinson, Franklin, North Carolina.

The father of these six old people, Col. James Lowry, piloted Bishop Asbury over the mountains into western North Carolina in the earliest stages of its civilization. Mrs. Tabor's ancestors donated the ground upon which the capitol at Raleigh, North Carolina, now stands.

Four children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Nathan T. Tabor. By name, these are Henry Cumming, who died about 1888, and was school commissioner at the time of his death; Thomas Harley; Mrs. Harriette Elizabeth Hudson, wife of J. S. Hudson; Miss Emma C. Tabor.

Mrs. Tabor was a member of the Methodist church from early womanhood, was a devoted wife, a friend to the young, and often ministered to the sick. She consistently lived and taught temperance. There are now no barrooms in Gilmer County, for the straight sale of whiskey the old way, whereas at one time there were 10 in Ellijay alone. These, through the teaching and example of temperance, have been swept away, and a splendid academy arose in their place.

Both Captain and Mrs. Tabor, well read in history and current literature, used often to delight their friends by relating important events telling of the habits and customs of the Indians, their euphonious language, the definitions of Indian names and the wonderful march of progress in all lines within their memories.

This account is based on a story published in the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1899.

Miss Emma Caroline Tabor

Miss Emma C. Tabor was born in Cartecay district Feb. 10, 1857, and died Nov. 12, 1915. She was the first female college graduate from Gilmer County.

She joined the Methodist church at an early age. At 17 she began teaching. By industry and economy and some help from her parents she paid her way through Wesleyan college at Macon, where she graduated in 1882 at the age of 24.

She gave almost the whole of her 28 years of teaching to Gilmer people, the only exceptions being periods of such work at Jasper and Fairmount. She enjoyed profound esteem in her day and became an inspiring tradition afterward. Oakland school was fortunate in being the recipient of her services, which carried her heart's devotion with them.

This was her old home school, where she got her college preparation. Oakland school stands not only on the scene of her former labors in the teaching field, but in part as a monument to the quality of her work and the depth of the consecration she put into it.

Due to Miss Tabor's intense interest for the welfare and advancement of her people and the fact that she lived out her belief, we believe she merits a quote from Horace regarding himself and what he had accomplished.

Exegi monumentum aere perennius
Regalique situ pyramidum altius,
Quod non imber edax, non Aquila impotens
Possit dirurere aut innumerabilis
Annorum series et fuga temporum.
Non omnis moriar, multaque pars mei
Vitabit Libitinam.

Translated:

"I have builded me a monument more enduring than brass
And loftier than the royal-seated pyramids,
Which neither the devouring rain nor the blustering north wind,
The countless train of years nor the flight of time
Will ever destroy. . . . .
I shall not altogether perish; much of me
Will live beyond death."

Tankersley

The pioneer members of this family consisted of two brothers, Lemuel and Floyd, who both settled, about 1843, in Tails Creek district. Lemuel is said to have come from Habersham county to Gilmer when he was 19. He died in 1896 at the age of 72. His wife was Sarah Ann Clark, born in 1831 in North Carolina. Her death occurred in 1886.

Descendants of Lemuel were Dr. James S., born Feb. 16, 1860. He attended local schools, including three years at the Ellijay Seminary. He once taught briefly in the County. He was graduated from the Atlanta Medical college in 1884.

He was physician to construction camps during the building of our railroad. He took a special medical course in 1901 in New York. He married Hessie Evans May 29, 1901. She died June 5, 1913. The only surviving child was James Tankersley of Ellijay.

Other children of Lemuel were John Henry, Wilburn, Tom, Nicholas L., and Miss Mary. N. L. attended North Georgia college. He taught in the County and was superintendent of its school system. He was postmaster and merchant at Ellijay, also.

Mr. Tankersley was interested, at one time, in the operation of a newspaper, called the Ellijay Times. In this enterprise he was assisted by his sister, Miss Mary Tankersley.

Floyd Tankersley came here from North Carolina. His descendants by his first wife were: Wilburn, Sarah; and by his second wife: Henry, Jack, James; and girls, Mat (married Brack Quarles), Jane (married Ves Worley), and Eliza, who married Henry Worley.

Wilburn Tankersley, son of Henry Tankersley, is well known in Mountaintown district and the County at large. He makes his present residence in Ellijay. He and his wife have been helpful consultants in establishing facts for this History.

Other members of the same family are Lawrence and Hoover. And, related, are Waldo of Mountaintown, Ruel of Ellijay, and numerous others. A. W. Tankersley is listed among Confederate veterans.

Tanner

A single member of this family made quite an impression on the County during the 1890s. This was Joseph Branch Tanner II. He never added Junior to his name though his father bore the same name. The last few years prior to the Civil War his father was a prominent citizen of Atlanta. His brother Henry was clerk of the court in Atlanta for many years and much of his clear script and many of his signatures are still on the records there.

J. B. Tanner was born March 10, 1842, in the vicinity of McDonough, where his people seem to have had extensive possessions—tracts of land, slaves and other property. During his adventurous early days, he was much attracted to Florida. But yellow fever struck him in that region and he, like many others, moved out, returning to Atlanta and his own people.

During the Civil War he served in the Confederate army but did not suffer any injuries. He was usually referred to as "Captain Tanner," though I am not sure what his military rating in the army was.

He came 100 miles still farther north to White Path and began boarding at the old White Path hotel. He became fascinated with the past history of that community of gold and mineral water and delightful climate. John Marion Ward (Dock, as he was commonly known) was doing some gold mining, he and Rans Rogers maintaining a camp for such purpose near the newly constructed Marietta & North Georgia railroad, which passed White Path station west of the hotel and half a mile north of their mining camp.

Tanner and Ward met. Mr. Tanner found his new friend an interesting man who knew the whole struggle and background of White Path. He accepted the invitation of Ward to ~~come~~ over on the Ellijay river and visit in the Ward home. There Mr. Tanner met Effie Ward, youngest of the Ward family of seven children. She was a beautiful girl with a fine Anglo Saxon type of beauty. Though she was much younger than Mr. Tanner (who had married twice before), the couple was married October 20, 1892.

Captain Tanner bought the present Jones mill in Boardtown district near the modern day Mort Jones home. He began plans to rebuild and improve the

facilities of the mill. He made it into a merchant mill, that is a mill to manufacture wheat flour, wheat being a common crop in those days.

During the reconstruction of the mill he ordered a millstone that weighed 750 pounds sent to Ellijay. In rolling the stone into the freight room at Ellijay handlers created a sensation without intending to. The floor broke through. The stone crashed down, carrying Captain Tanner with it. It fell partly on him. A man named Andy Watkins, standing by, leaped in and twisted the huge stone off him enough that he could be completely rescued from the pit.

The injury made a cripple of him the rest of his life. He brought suit against the M & N G Railroad, winning it for damages Oct. 23, 1890. The stone was taken up to Boardtown and installed. It is still there in the mouldering old mill, no longer used for any purpose. The Bud Jones estate still owns the old mill.

When the Abner Watkins estate, due to the death of Mr. Watkins, went to sale, Mr. Tanner bid it in. This was about 1893. The estate contained five lots in upper Cherry Log district; and perhaps parts of other lots, as the whole acquisition contained about a thousand acres. Some of it was fine farm land along Cherry Log creek (upper portion of the Ellijay river).

Tanner Trio

JOSEPH BRANCH TANNER II, his wife and their son, JOE III

The Tanners promptly began erecting a home on top of a hill just east of what is now known as Lucius station, two miles north of Cherry Log. They dug down to water and lived the good life. A baby boy born to them was named Pat. He lived but a few months and was buried on the hill. On May 9, 1896, another son was born. He was named Joseph Branch III. Today that son lives in Atlanta and has a son named Joe IV.

The changing order did much to turn awry some of Mr. Tanner's cherished plans. After conserving his timber, which in itself was a fortune and had a railroad running by it, he started raising fine livestock. But the automobile was already ushering in a new age. Demand for his kind of horses fell.

He sold his mill property to Henry Tanner in exchange for Atlanta real estate. He once owned the Fred Johnson place in Boardtown; farms near Gainesville and property in Blue Ridge. Late in 1902 the Tanners left their home in Cherry Log district, going to Sanford, Fla., where Mr. and Mrs. Marion Dorn, formerly of White Path, again became their neighbors.

Members of the family remained there several years, then came back to Conley, Georgia, to a house near the Southern railroad. There Joseph Branch Tanner died Nov. 22, 1911. He is buried in a plot by a sister name Sarah Tanner Tolan, who was born Sept. 21, 1840, and died June 23, 1868. His wife stood by him through reverses as well as the sunnier days. She died at Griffin, Georgia, about 1953.

One of the last summers of John M. Ward's life (probably 1906) he had with him Mrs. Tanner and her son Joe.

The Tanner family was related to several Atlanta families of prominence. Among these were some of the McClendons (James and his descendants if any. The relationship was on the wife's side); a Dr. Branyon was a cousin. Somewhere among these relatives was a daughter of J. B. Tanner. These, including his brother Henry, visited the Tanners in Cherry Log district.

Whatever the shortcomings of Joseph Branch Tanner II, he was a generous host and a likeable man.

Tate

John I. Tate, great-grandfather of Sam and Steve Tate of Tate, in Pickens county, was living in Gilmer County before the Indians left. He is buried at Ellijay. I have heard him spoken of as a soldier of the Revolution.

However, there is nothing about his gravestone warranting the belief that this is true. For the inscription on it reads:

> Sacred to the memory of John Tate, who departed this life the 28th of December A. D. 1838 aged 80 years, 7 months and 28 days. This tomb is erected by his relatives in 1842.

The grave is on old Academy hill. His widow died at Tate, Georgia, April 3, 1841.

John Tate first settled in Cherokee county January 1835. He subsequently removed to Gilmer County, where he appears to have remained the rest of his life. But his family must have moved to Tate soon after his death.

The Samuel Tate referred to among pioneers was the grandfather of the Sam Tate known to people of far more recent times. Sam Tate I died Sept. 20, 1866, being at the time a resident of Pickens county. Sam II, son of Stephen C. Tate, died Oct. 11, 1938.

The will of John Tate, signed May 25, 1838, and attested by Thomas M. Johnson, Elisha Coward and James Simmons, and recorded Feb. 4, 1839, was probated at Ellijay.

The Tates formerly well known at Ellijay are deceased or have disappeared from public life. Steve, brother of Sam II, was Historian of Pickens county.

Tatum

Buckner Tatum, born Oct. 3, 1803, was one of Gilmer's early settlers, arriving in 1836. He died Oct. 21, 1895 (his daughter Rebecca recorded it as 1897).

Two of his sons, Landrine J. and Aaron S., were notable figures during the formative period. Cicero Mercer, another son, often returned to Gilmer. In fact, he spent his last years here. While a brother to Landrine J. and Aaron S., he was much younger than either of them. Thomas J., also a brother, lost an arm in the Confederate army.

James Penfield was a twin brother to Cicero. Mrs. Rebecca Debord Cole's maiden name was Miss Rebecca Tatum, probably born March 22, 1853; and died Oct. 24, 1929. She was the mother of Mrs. William Parks by her first husband, Mr. Debord. This daughter, named Lillie, married Mr. Parks on Christmas Eve 1896. Mrs. Rebecca Debord Cole lived some of her last years with Mr. and Mrs. William (or Bill) Parks.

Mrs. Rebecca Debord, widowed of her first husband, married A. Jeff Cole April 13, 1882. Mr. Cole himself had been married before, and, through death, had lost his first wife.

While Landrine J. and Aaron S. Tatum were in Mercer University, still at Penfield, in Greene county, news reached them that twin brothers had been born to them back home, and as yet had not been named. So they wrote back and suggested Cicero Mercer and James Penfield as names for the new boys. The names the twins received and retained. The sister of the two collegians has recorded the birth of the twins as July 1, 1855.

Aaron and Landrine Tatum became able and informed leaders in education and religion. They helped establish new churches and inform and direct those that already existed. Salem church, six miles north of Ellijay, was established with the aid of Landrine, whose fine script in the old books of record certified to his energy and proficiency in this field.

Pleasant Hill Baptist church in Mountaintown district was the old place of worship, near their home, of the Tatums. One of the last requests of Aaron S. was that he be permitted to paint the church with his own hands; and, although already advancing in years, he finished the job while on one of his return visits to the old home community.

Landrine J. Tatum was born in Ashe county, North Carolina, Feb. 22, 1832. He came to Gilmer County in 1836, when he was but four years old, and settled 12 miles northwest of Ellijay, a short distance west of the Julius Rogers home and only a mile or so from his church. He appears to have attended a little rural school close to his home.

For his daughter, in commenting upon his early life, says that in the community of his boyhood he was the means of "conversion" of several of his schoolmates and a school teacher, who were baptized with him by Rev. Michael Walker. This was in 1848 when Landrine was 16.

He taught several years in Gilmer. But he strove constantly to improve his educational rating and deepen his knowledge. He journeyed some 160 miles away

to Penfield to attend Mercer University while the institution was still located there. He entered Mercer in 1854, and while there was deeply impressed by the teachings of Dr. J. L. Dagg. His brother Aaron S. appears to have attended Mercer with him and for the same length of time.

During this period he was licensed to preach. And, while still a resident of Gilmer, he was ordained to the gospel ministry, W. T. Fleming and Peter Miller being in the ordaining council. Apparently, while in Greene county he saw enough of slavery to set him against it.

When the Civil War came up, his sympathies were with the Union. To that conviction he clung with the spirit and grim determination of a martyr. Finding himself in danger of his life, he yoked four oxen to a sturdy Tennessee wagon and began an odyssey that carried him and his family 1,000 miles north and west.

Robbed on the way by Indians, shot at by bushwhackers and outlaws, he held to his course with the tenacity of a Forty-niner and came safely through in 1864. He settled in Hickory county, near Wheatland, Missouri, far over toward the Kansas border. He sold one yoke of the oxen, made a crop, taught school, bought land and began building the home in which he lived till two years before his death.

He never returned to Gilmer.

He made, in his western location, a notable record in Baptist church activities. He first joined Mount Moriah Baptist church by letter. He attended 48 annual meetings of the Old Path association, of which he was clerk for 21 years, and moderator for 20. He was a minister for 74 years. He gave to all church enterprises. He was known to have baptized candidates for immersion when the ice was a foot thick.

He maintained the utmost hospitality in his home. Strong, stalwart, impressive, he stood six feet three inches. He was healthy, poised and temperate in all things, admirably efficient and energetic. He believed in sternly sticking to duty. For instance, a sawmill was being taken north along the road by Buckhorn schoolhouse one day. He would not let the boys look out. Even curiosity must be controlled. He relished good reading.

When 30 years of age (in 1862), he married Margaret Sheriff of Gilmer County, a widow with several children. A creek passing near the James Parks home in Mountaintown is called Sheriff creek, probably commemorating this pioneer family, unknown to modern generations.

Children were born to her and Mr. Tatum. Of these, Theodosia B. and Georgia only reached maturity. Step-children of Mr. Tatum's were Mesdames Sallie A. Moore and Elizabeth Mashburn and Mr. L. C. Sheriff.

Mr. Tatum also raised a grand-daughter, Atha Lea Dent. His wife died Nov. 17, 1917. He survived till April 21, 1924, when he passed crowned with a noble record.

Aaron S. Tatum, also born in Ashe county, North Carolina, Dec. 16, 1834, joined Pleasant Hill church when he was 18. On the same day the church unanimously licensed him to preach. In 1856 he was ordained to the ministry. He also taught school and farmed. For two years he was clerk of the Ellijay Baptist association. During 1854-1856 he attended Mercer University.

"As a minister," a contemporary has recorded, "he was plain and direct and forcible. His subjects were usually well selected to meet the needs of his churches and the various congregations he addressed."

He married Jane E. Johnson Jan. 27, 1856. His bride was born March 15, 1830. He spent many subsequent years in the vicinity of Miami, Florida, to be

near his sons and daughters who had made their home there. But he always loved Gilmer, and often came back in summer time. He sometimes visited the old home place and wandered about the scenes of his boyhood.

In 1856 he was listed among the teachers of the County. Though that same year he probably moved his residence to the adjoining county of Dawson. For that year he married a Dawson county girl. It is as probable, however, that she married him and lived in Gilmer awhile. It may have been her influence that led him to make the change of residence.

We know that he was living at Barrettsville, in that county, March 1, 1864, when Bethel Blanton, a son, was born. Later the family took up residence at Adairsville. This was about 1875.

While Bethel B. Tatum was living at Adairsville, he and a brother named Johnson Tatum, born Jan. 1, 1866, migrated to Florida. Bethel B. was only 17. In that state the boys began, at first in a small way, to develop areas around them, building, at length, houses, streets—even roads and railroads and acquiring real estate and the directing of numerous other substantial enterprises. Other brothers joined their corporation.

Tatum Brothers, in the course of their stay of 41 years at Miami, spiraled into a corporation reputedly totalling many millions. Their undertakings at boom prices proved too heavy for them. And during the 1925 Florida boom and subsequent deflation they suffered great losses.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron S. Tatum, besides Bethel B. and Johnson, were Bunyan G., who was born Dec. 21, 1857, and died Jan. 6, 1876, when he was 18 years old; Judson H., born July 31, 1859; Webb K., born April 20, 1868; and Smiley M. (born Feb. 22, 1870). The only daughter, Villa Virginia, became a Mrs. Mosteller, and when last heard of was living at Orlando, Florida.

Rebecca Tatum, sister of Landrine J. Tatum, during her busy life in Gilmer faithfully kept records on her family, and she states that Villa was born Oct. 20, 1861. Bethel B., by a number of years, survived the last of the other children. During his last years he came back to live near his birthplace, maintaining residence at the Canton hotel until his death there a few years ago.

The names of Aaron S. and Landrine J. Tatum both appear in old lists of Gilmer teachers of 1856. Just where Aaron S. taught except in what became Dawson County in 1857 is not known. All of western Dawson known as "Gilmer Cutoff," and containing land lots of 160 acres, was taken from Gilmer and perhaps Mr. Tatum did all his teaching in that area, beginning before Dawson county was created.

But a notable scene of labor of Landrine J. was at Buckhorn nine miles north of Ellijay. He taught in a little log cabin that stood opposite (and northeast) of the present Buckhorn meeting house. It was razed about 1895. Living persons, among them Tom Plemmons of Copper Hill, can remember this little pioneer structure that served both as a church and a school house.

His students here referred to Tatum as "a graduate of Mercer University." He was generally referred to as a man of high quality and thoroughness in his teaching. He left the impression of his personality and teaching on both the school and the churches of Boardtown, and laid deep the foundations of that progressive section of Gilmer County.

Tatum taught at Buckhorn, beginning the autumn after his graduation from Mercer, 1856 to 1857 and 1857 to 1858. As school terms were 10 months each, this gave him a teaching period of 20 months. But in that length of time he so impressed himself that he became a great tradition.

LANDRINE JEHU TATUM

A Power among Early Preachers and Educators. Taken about the time He was Teaching at Buckhorn.

Among present day descendants of the Tatums in Gilmer are members of the William Parks family. One of these is Roscoe Parks, business man of Ellijay. Another is Miss Mary Ruth Sales, his niece. Mrs. Homer Starks is a niece of Landrine J. Tatum.

Teem

Israel Teem, born Nov. 7, 1813, died Aug. 25, 1901, came here from Rabun about 1839. Before he arrived in Gilmer he had married Miss Jemima Allen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Allen, who preceded Mr. Teem to Gilmer. Mrs. Teem, born Aug, 17, 1818, died June 29, 1907.

Following his father-in-law, Mr. Teem was one of the first settlers in the Clear Creek community. He was spoken of as "remarkably steady, upright and industrious. He avoided speaking harshly of anyone. He lived on a principle of doing to everybody all the good he could and the least possible amount of harm."

"His good wife was of like personality. A most excellent woman. She and Mr. Teem were both members of the Baptist church. I (B. B. Quillian) have often worshipped with them around the same altar."

Capt. Martin V. Teem, son of Israel Teem, was born June 5, 1842, and died Feb. 19, 1907. He married, about the close of the Civil War, a widow, daughter of Milton Davis. She was the widow of Clark Bearden, who had been a successful Forty-niner, and was referred to as Mrs. Neaty Bearden.

For quite a while Mr. Teem was a merchant in Ball Ground district. About 1886 he removed to Ellijay and became prominently identified with the business life of the town, becoming merchant and hotel operator. He also maintained a livery stable. He kept five clerks in his Ellijay store. He seems to have operated, also, a store (perhaps in Ball Ground) in the country. He maintained two farms. At one time A. T. Logan and N. R. Osborn were in his employ.

His first wife, Mrs. N. A. Teem, died June 8, 1900. On April 5, 1903, he married Miss Alice V. Redmond. The second Mrs. Teem lived until March 20, 1929. She was survived by two nephews, Allen and Hoke Johnston, sons of her half-brother.

MARTIN V. TEEM, I

Prominent in Ellijay, Captain in the Union army's 10th Tennessee Cavalry.

Martin V. Teem, a Baptist and a Mason, was devoted to his family and home. In Civil War days, he opposed secession, becoming a captain in that portion of the Union Army known as the 10th Tennessee Calvary.

Children of Martin V. Teem and his wife were: Rosa, born Sept. 10, 1876, died April 4, 1912; Herschel, Sept. 16, 1879—Dec. 24, 1914; W. M., former resident of Marietta; M. I.; and Mrs. Ina Cole, wife of J. Gordon Cole; Mrs. Cole died Aug. 27, 1945. Mr. Cole died Dec. 1957. Mrs. Cole assisted generously with data on her family and related families.

Martin I. Teem I was for many years a prominent business man and church leader of Ellijay. For a number of years he was a resident of Marietta and was engaged in business there. Later he lived in Ellijay. He died in Marietta Aug. 7, 1958, and his funeral was conducted two days later at Ellijay.

Mr. Teem will be remembered with gratitude for his part in the religious life of Ellijay.

M. I. Teem II is among our active (and it should be added), highly useful Ellijay citizens. He is resident highway department of Georgia engineer, and keeps public highways of this region under supervision and improvements for the future.

Tucker

This family, one of the earliest of the County, is interesting for several reasons. The family had a heavy admixture of Cherokee blood. Among the Cherokees, it was noted for its patriotism and helpfulness as linguists, or interpreters.

John I is first on our record of the family. He is said to have lived at a spot now marked by a walnut tree between the Ab Holt home and the Ellijay river near where the stream leaves Cherry Log district. The general name for this area is Goose Island, and the public road passing by is known as Goose Island road. John Tucker I's Indian name was Conseenee. His youth seems to have been spent with a white family named Tucker, and in that way he came to bear their name. John I is said to have married Ruby Holloway, a white pioneer young woman. Children of the couple were John II, remembered by many people still living, as he himself lived into his 90s; a brother, Allen. There seems to have been a sister, who in her later years made her home in a little cabin west of Goose Island. She treated passing white children on ginger cakes if they appeared at a convenient time.

John Tucker III died in Gilmer County Oct. 24, 1962. He left issue.

When John Tucker I lived near the Ab Holt home, he maintained a grist mill, located 100 yards or more down the Ellijay river. As the branch that empties into the river just west of the Holt home is the district line between Cherry Log and Boardtown, this would put the location of this early mill in Boardtown.

More about the Tuckers will be found in our material arranged "chron."

The William Tucker, whose wife was a sister to Reuben Fossett, came from Hall county. He settled also where there was an early mill. This was then the Goodman mill (later Stegall), six miles east of Ellijay. William Tucker was employed by Mr. Goodman to tend the mill.

Honest, truthful, compassionate, Tucker was strong, a hard worker. But he took time to be neighborly. He loved his friends and they, on their part, regarded him as most trustworthy. Politically, he was a Whig; religiously, a Methodist. He and his kindly wife took in James Charles when the lad was freezing Feb. 7, 1835. Mr. Tucker, in his old age, lived in Fannin county. B. B. Quillian visited him there in May 1883.

Walker

William, Memory and Buck Walker migrated here from South Carolina. Isaac Newton Walker, a Confederate veteran, was the father of the respected and popular John Walker, whose death occurred some years ago.

The three or four first families settled on Owltown, this being the old home of Isaac Newton, some on Talona creek, and still others farther west in the County.

Among the active members of this family should be mentioned Clarence, attorney and business executive.

Ward

John Montgomery Ward was a popular young member of this family. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Ward, formerly of East Ellijay but during more recent years of Sebring, Florida. His mother was the former Miss Mabel Smith. Grover C. Ward is now deceased.

His paternal ancestry goes back to James Ward, who settled at White Path about 1842. James Ward was his great-great-grandfather. His great-grandfather was Albert Ward, who lost his life while reportedly on a furlough home during the Civil War.

His grandfather was John Ward, son of Albert Ward, whose wife was a daughter of pioneer Osborn Holt. His maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Mont Smith, long lived at East, both being now deceased.

John Montgomery (usually referred to as Monty) was born Oct. 7, 1923. He died in an airplane crash, while in the line of duty, at Corpus Christi, Texas, Nov. 17, 1943. He was thus but 20 years old when he died.

He was a fine, gracious, handsome open-spirited youth, rich with future promise. He told the author, with enthusiasm, the last time I saw him, "The day I am 17 years old I am going to enter some branch of the armed forces."

He chose aviation, enrolling as an aviation cadet. He went to Clemson college, South Carolina, for basic training. Three months later he was called to more active duty, and went to the University of Ga. He was now a member of the aviation department of the armed forces, as he had hoped.

After further training there, he was transferred to the University of Oklahoma at Norman. After finishing his primary training there, he went to Corpus Christi, where he took more advanced training. The day before he would have completed his training he was killed. He had already been recommended for a commission as second lieutenant. His specific class was Marine Fighter pilot.

He had passed his tests and his rating was conferred posthumously. His body was returned home, and he was buried in the National cemetery, Marietta.

The first members of this family to enter Gilmer appear to have been Frederick Ward and his family. James Ward, his father, apparently did not arrive until 1842. His home and family records, probably going back to England, were burned while the Civil War was in progress.

He at one time lived just north of White Path creek where a side road turns off the highway toward the old Chief White Path home. The spot is in Ellijay militia district. Just north of the side road, in a location now in woods, stood the old Ward home. James Ward was a contemporary of Landrine and Aaron S. Tatum, as his name appears with the Tatums among early teachers.

When he was young, he had lived farther north, probably in Virginia. His father, a native of England, probably landed and settled in Virginia. But, for an indefinite time prior to the removal of the family to Gilmer, he had lived in Rutherford county, North Carolina.

He lived on a plantation about 10 miles out of Rutherfordton. John Marion Ward, son of his and grandfather of the author of this History, attended school at the old academy at Rutherfordton, coming in daily to school on a horse. He was usually accompanied by two small Negro boys who were presumably responsible for the horse until he was ready to ride back home.

The family of James Ward was large and was said to require quite a sizeable dining table at meal-time. John M. was one of the smallest and youngest of the children. He was rather small in size. All his brothers were large men my father said. His size and youth among members of the family perhaps caused him to be indulged by his family a good deal.

When James Ward's family came to Gilmer, other members of the Ward clan remained in North Carolina. One of these was said to have been John, once a county sheriff. But this could hardly have been a closer relative to John M. than an uncle. John M. was called "Dock" among neighbors.

The first home of the Wards was in the Scrougetown community in Cartecay district, where the oldest brother of John M., Frederick by name reportedly drew land in the Cherokee lottery. Later James Ward, perhaps for convenience while he worked in the White Path gold mines, settled on the site near the Chief White Path home. Just north of his house site and on the west side of the modern highway is a little valley, opening at the highway, known in old mining days as Ward Holler, rich with gold 110 years ago.

He was somewhat dark. His hair was dark and his eyes hazel, so my grandfather told me. His spouse, Patricia, had yellow Saxon hair and blue eyes and a naturally blonde, wholesome complexion. She had greyed but little when she died. This couple was buried at Scrougetown.

Though unaccustomed to pioneering, Mrs. James (Jim, to the mining neighbors) Ward saw plenty of it around White Path and finished out her days there. Her maiden name was Ledbetter. Her father, totally blind in his later years, used to sit and, by turns, stand about among his farm slaves in North Carolina to "oversee" operations. He would sometimes roundly berate a slave for leaving grass and weeds in the crops, though his reckoning was a mere venture at forestalling skimpy cultivation.

Issue of James and Patricia Ward were: John Marion, Jonathon, Frederick and Albert. Albert Ward was wantonly killed by bushwhackers led, it was told to me by people alive at the time, by a desperado named John Gatewood. His death occurred in 1862 while he was home on a furlough from the Confederate army.

On April 6, 1857, Albert Ward had married Miss Sarah Holt, daughter of Osborn Holt, pioneer. The night Albert Ward was killed his courageous wife threw her arms around her husband and refused to surrender him to the mob. But the crowd fired anyhow, killing Ward and wounding her in the hand.

Daughters of James and Patricia Ward were Jane, the oldest child; Nancy, who married into a prominent family name Taylor of Memphis, Tenn. Nancy lost two sons in the Confederate army.

John M. Ward long lived near White Path, the place that became home to him in early life. Prior to his marriage to Miss Sarah Young at Ducktown, Tennessee, Jan. 1, 1855, he had become foreman of transportation of copper ore (now being diverted from Dalton and from Gilmer County through which its

route of transportation lay) down the Ocoee river to Cleveland, Tenn., to be from there sent to suitable furnaces for smelting. The ore was carried by wagons. The wild incredibly rough and scenic gorge was practically uninhabited except for a stopping place called Halfway House, half of the way to Cleveland.

Later John M. Ward came back to live in Gilmer, from which he appears to have gone to the transportation job.

His wife's mother was a sister to John E. Davis, prominent Gilmer settler of the late pioneer period of our history. Mrs. Effie Dunson, who remarried after the death of J. B. Tanner, had at her death several years ago a Bible and family record presented to her mother, Mrs. John M. Ward, by Jeff Davis, son of John E. Davis. The presentation of the book and records was made while the John E. Davis family was still living in Gilmer County.

James Ward died during a grain harvest. Some neighbor men who had come in to help harvest the crop of grain were working nearby. My father, who believed it was the summer of 1863, was a little cotton topped lad of four, remembered my grandmother calling to the men outside when the old man died.

When James Ward left his home in Ellijay district and went up into Cherry Log for better care in the home of his son, John M., he left his household furnishings, including family records, in his house. The building was burned—by incendiaries, the family always believed— while the old man still languished in his last illness three miles north on Brier creek where my grandmother gave him the best care she could. At the time my grandfather was away serving in the Confederate army under Col. John R. Hart of the 6th Georgia Cavalry.

John Marion Ward was born Aug. 27, 1827. William Ellington met him soon after Ward came to Gilmer County. Ellington remarked, "The first time I ever saw Ward, he was but a smooth-faced boy." He was 14 or 15 when he came to the County with his father. He died at his home in Cherry Log district Feb. 11, 1907, in his 80th year. He was a Methodist and a Mason.

Sarah Caroline, his wife had died nearly 10 years earlier. The date of her death was Dec. 1, 1897. She was one of the gracious spirits of our County. When she was three years old the family of her mother, the Davises, assumed care of her. For they considered her father, who was a good man but a cripple and unable to take what the Davises considered adequate care of her.

But John Young was dissatisfied with the manner, apparently, of her removal from his custody. Without any agreement with the Davises, he seized the child and carried her back to his own home. But, as soon as she was old enough to work for herself, she struck out on her own, disdaining to live with her father and a stepmother who, upon the death of her own mother, had succeeded to her mother's place in the home.

Issue of John M. and Sarah Caroline Ward were: Martha Louise, born Sept. 14, 1855, died in the spring of 1938; Margaret Ella, born July 26, 1857, died at Gainesville about 1933; Albert Gallatin, father of the writer, born Oct. 1, 1859, died Feb. 5, 1929; Nancy Taylor, born Dec. 11, 1861, died near the close of the last century, about 1898, Ulissus Sterling, born Sept. 3, 1865, lived till about 1908; Minerva Lee, born Dec. 17, 1872, died early in the year 1938; Primodonea Cornelia (Effie), born at the White Path hotel Feb. 15, 1876, lived until about 1953.

For three years the Wards, at the solicitation of William Dorn, owner of the White Path hotel property, occupied the place. The family went back and forth to their own land (perhaps along the Ellijay river) to tend that. Nancy married Capt. John D. Howell, a northern man, who seems to have been born at Warsaw, Indiana. Primodonea Cornelia (so named by a Dr. Ward, her cousin, visiting the

family at the time, who attended the baby's mother during the delivery) was usually called Effie but was doubtless not so known till Dr. Ward returned to his home in North Carolina still thinking his ponderous choice of a name would do.

Effie married Joseph Branch Tanner, of an Atlanta family, discussed under "Tanner." The Tanner home, till Dec. 1902, overlooked Lucius railroad station (perhaps Captain Tanner meant to avoid to the utmost another attack of yellow fever) in Cherry Log district. This home was the scene of much generous hospitality and hearty living.

Gone is the old caretaker's house by the Tanner mill in Boardtown where J. S. Smith joined the couple in wedlock. What was developed by Tanner and his manager, Capt. J. D. Howell, into a merchant mill and grist mill. The main building (later used by the A. M. Jones family) is the one erected by Captain Tanner. It is but a mouldering ruin of the other days but houses some of the equipment installed by him.

Frederick Ward (usually called "Fed") is said to have operated a pottery in the vicinity of Roy. This was perhaps the second such plant operated in the very early days. He was spoken of as the first white person to settle in his community.

My father always spoke of "Uncle Fed" and his wife as both honorable and trustworthy. Ward and his wife were said by older relatives to have been married before they left North Carolina. It was further stated that they were related to each other.

Descendants were: Daughters, Mary M., who married Aaron Hagan and became the mother of Mel Hagan, now deceased, of Scrougetown community; Nancy E., who became the wife of Oliver Southern. Mr. Southern resided, until his death, on the eastern edge of Gilmer near the Dawson county line. Sons were Hamp, James, John, Columbus and Harve.

Some other Wards that have come to the County in recent years have little or no relation to the James Ward branch, Mrs. Tamar (Ward) Schloss of East Ellijay is a sister of Grover C. Ward. And the family of the late Woodrow Ward are also descended from James Ward.

Like many other Gilmer families, the Wards have been depleted in numbers through many years by migration, mainly westward. Among these was Charles Leslie, who went from Cherry Log district in 1902, settling in Oklahoma by his uncle, James Hallford. There he realized much of his boyhood ambition to operate a prosperous stock farm. Lawrence Ward and several of his brothers have scattered to Tennessee, North Carolina and elsewhere. Alton Ward, after a residence of seven years in Florida, returned in 1961 to live in Gilmer, but has since returned to Florida.

George G. Ward Jr., native of Ellijay, is a resident of Atlanta. His sister, Virginia Ward Gaines, also a native of Ellijay, is likewise a citizen of metropolitan Atlanta.

Warlick

William H. Warlick, well known and honored citizen of Ellijay, was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, Nov. 10, 1852. He came to Ellijay, according to memories of his family when he was one year old. This would place of course the arrival of the Warlick family at Ellijay as 1853. He died at Ellijay July 11, 1934.

Mr. Warlick was conscientious, instinctively thorough in his work. He was a vehicle builder and blacksmith, being at one time extensively engaged in operations of the kind at Canton, where he employed a number of assistants. He had, however, for many years prior to his death, conducted all his work at Ellijay. For some years during the last period of his life he had been retired from his former occupations.

The old Warlick lands at Asheville, North Carolina, were said to have once embraced part of the famous Biltmore estate there.

Brothers of William H. were Albert, Fairmount; Frank, Talking Rock; Mark, Texas; James, Fairburn; Dave A., Macon; Charlie and Harley, both of College Park; Rev. John, Rankin, Illinois; Rev. T. J., Atlanta; sisters, Mrs. Katie Teague, Texas; Mrs. Mary Nicholson and Mrs. Leastie Vaity, the last two of Gilmer. Brothers Harley and John were reported as still alive as late as 1946. His father was William Warlick I.

The wife of William H. Warlick was Emily Adeline McMillan, born April 20, 1854, died April 9, 1924. Their children were Mrs. Ella Fowler, Harley, Chrisler, Mrs. Lemma McMullen, William, Herschel, Miss Nell Warlick, and Mrs. Tom Howell.

Mrs. Fowler and Miss Nell live away from Ellijay. Chrisler, William are deceased.

A part of the estate of William H. Warlick, a few miles south of Ellijay, has been developed into highly desirable home sites, many of which are now occupied.

The Warlick family is understood to be related to the Wade Hampton family of South Carolina.

Waters

Abner Waters was a familiar figure to all the earliest settlers of Gilmer County, and to many that came later. People came to call him "Uncle Ab." Much praise of him has been left on early records. His kindness, his ready smile, his charitable remarks, his promptness to help the needy were retained in the memory of those who knew him best.

He lived in Mountaintown district. He did a lot of transporting during the days when the modern road did not exist and travel over such "paths" and "traces" as were already laid out took much strength of body and not a little courage of spirit. Wagons were about the only vehicle that could get over them. But Uncle Ab made a business of using them all seasons.

His kind of transportation, as common then as a freight train or motor truck now, occupied about all the time of Mr. Waters. He seemed to have accepted such continuous travel as his occupation. He was pictured in the memory of many as he stirred about the murk, smoke and fire-gleam of camp sites along such roads as could be traveled during the early period.

In his day, before Atlanta existed, much merchandise was brought on tediously slow wagons from as far away as Augusta, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina. A road had been opened from Augusta into the Cherokee country about 1804. The slowness of the traffic of those days required added sturdy men of the Abner Waters type.

Heavy set, blue of eye, dependable, diligent, he stuck so long to his occupation and fitted so contentedly into it that many of his friends feared he would one day be found dead around a camp fire. It was common remark that he had driven wagons more miles and built more camp fires than any man in Georgia. He usually drove six mules or oxen to a wagon.

A companion of Waters on most of his treks was a Negro boy name Bob, whom Waters had raised. In the middle 1880s Bob, still alive, was being referred to as already an old man. Indifferent to emancipation proclamations, he had remained with "Massa Ab."

The death of Abner Waters occurred March 12, 1881. He was 87, his birth having occurred in 1794. He was thus five years old when George Washington died. His funeral, preached quite a while after his death, was attended by Bob, who shed sincere tears of regret at his master's decease and as a token of devotion to the memory of him.

His widow, a second wife, and three children survived him, and were living at the old home in 1884. Having lost his first wife, he lived a widower several years. His Negro friend died April 4, 1887, and was buried in the cemetery for whites at Ellijay.

Long a member of the Methodist church, Abner Waters made his house the home of his minister. "He is greatly missed at Cohutta* church," comments B. B. Quillian. "But he is gone to his reward. . . . . may his memory be cherished."

The links of this family to present days would include Ellijay policeman of a generation ago, John Waters, said to have been a son of Uncle Ab; a daughter, Alice, who married Tom Dover, became the mother of Mrs. Cicero Logan; another daughter, Bell, became Mrs. Erskine Smith. From the record, then, it appears that our very agreeable and helpful former mail carrier on Route 1, is a great-grandson of this same Uncle Abner.

Frank Waters is treated in time order elsewhere.

Watkins

Edward Wills Watkins Jr. was born at Ellijay March 29, 1876. He received instruction in the public schools of that city. He afterward attended Young Harris college, then the North Georgia Agricultural college at Dahlonega, Georgia. He left there in his junior year to enter the Southern Medical college, now a part of Emory University. He followed this with courses in the University of Tennessee, from which he received the M. D. degree in 1900. He attended, later still, the New York post graduate school; also had courses at Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore and the Philadelphia Polyclinic. He engaged in general practice at Ellijay after 1903.

He directed the affairs of the Ellijay Telephone Company. He was rated as "a progressive realtor and farmer on an extensive scale." He was classed as Gilmer County's largest individual landowner. Dr. Watkins was married Aug. 9, 1923, at Quitman, Georgia, to Miss Bessie McLeod, a daughter of Archie C. McLeod, a native of North Carolina and a dealer in real estate and naval stores. He was a steward of the Methodist church.

Abner Watkins was an early settler in northern Gilmer. As this century began, his old home, a substantial hewn-log cabin, still stood on the first slight hilltop south of Cherry Log meeting house. He died about 1893, and his estate was bid in by Joseph B. Tanner.

Soon after Mr. Tanner set in erecting, on his own choice of a site, his summer house on the elevated location half a mile south.

Mrs. Abner Watkins (given name Nancy) survived her husband many years. As a faithful, energetic wife she was said, by old neighbors, to have toiled by the side of her men folk to establish the estate of her husband and herself. Born

* Long since extinct, this church was succeeded by Nine Mile, which stands some three miles from the site of old Cohutta. The church called Cohutta was near the former Avery Langley home. The spot is marked today by a small cemetery.

DR. EDWARD W. WATKINS, JR.

Dr. Edward W. Watkins was present at the formal opening of Gilmer County's Hill-Burton hospital Sunday, July 18, 1955. He cut the tape that opened the building. Two years later ill health forced his retirement. He practiced medicine at Ellijay and surrounding areas for 57 years. His contributions are said to have made possible the present Methodist church building at Ellijay, which is named for his family, Watkins Memorial. He was a trustee of Reinhardt college. Dr. Watkins died at his home in Ellijay October 30, 1963. His funeral was conducted at Ellijay November 1, 1963, and his interment was there also.

in 1800, she died at the home of her grandson, Harley P. Watkins, in Ellijay about the year 1910, being at the time of her death or actually 110 years old. She is remembered to have walked alone to visit nearing neighbors when she was very old. She was affectionately welcomed everywhere, and was known as "Grandma." She was sound of heart as well as of health. She was very even tempered.

She had 20 brothers and sisters, and was herself the mother of 12 children. Maiden name Smith, she was born in Rabun county. She was the great-grandmother of Grady Watkins, merchant of Ellijay.

Doctors E. W., Senior and Junior, and J. M. Watkins, also a physician and brother to E. W. Senior, figured not only in the medical evolution of Gilmer but in other developments as well.

Claude G., son of E. W., was born Sept. 9, 1884. He died Feb. 11, 1927. He attended Young Harris College and the University of Georgia. He was connected, in his business career, with the bank of Copper Hill and the Cudahy Packing Company. Dr. E. C., his brother, settled in his profession at Brooklet, Ga. He died at Asheville, North Carolina, Feb. 15, 1960, leaving a son, E. C. Watkins Jr. A sister, of Dr. E. C., Estelle, who married L. G. Edwards of Blue Ridge, was born Oct. 10, 1870.

Dr. C. B. Watkins came to Ellijay within recent years, and has done his practice largely through the Ellijay clinic. He is now serving in the Georgia legislature.

Harley P., son of George Watkins of Boardtown, spent the early period of his life with his father in Boardtown district. His father acquired and occupied the fine lands of the old Jim Cody estate. He moved, in 1908, into Ellijay, there remaining the rest of his life. We have little data on Posey, John of Cherry Log, Miles of Boardtown and their descendants.

MAJOR W. R. WELCH

MRS. W. R. WELCH

The Baby, not further identified, is one of her own children.

Welch

Major Western R. Welch and his wife Nannie (or Nancy) occupied the old Welch home, recently relinquished to new owners by Mrs. Clifford Welch, during the Civil War. This gives this home historical associations not common in Ellijay or any other part of Gilmer County.

While it is surpassed in age old pioneer type houses such as the ancient White Path home, for instance, it is still well preserved and habitable. It has even been enlarged and modernized. The land across the road in front of it was a drill ground during the Civil War.

Major Welch was born at Waynesville, North Carolina, Aug. 7, 1829, and died June 19, 1904. His wife, Nannie C., was born at Asheville, North Carolina (Buncombe County), Oct. 16, 1835, and died Nov. 21, 1911.

Major Welch was a member of the 11th Georgia Volunteers, "Tige" Anderson's Brigade, Hood's Division and Longstreet's Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia. He entered into service July 3, 1861, as a captain. On May 26, 1862, he was elected a major of Company D, 11th Georgia Regiment, his service in that capacity terminating Feb. 1, 1863.

Major and Mrs. Welch left issue, William Clarence, Mary Pink, Charles J., Beatrice, Effie Lee, W. R. Jr., Maggie, R. Clifford. There was a marked intellectual and cultural aptness among these children in their student days. Effie Lee won a gold medal at Lucy Cobb; Maggie, a silver one at the Ellijay Seminary. "Clif" could set a man right in a discussion of the solar system and the respective positions of all the planets in it while he was keeping up with details of his job in a print shop.

Other Welches in the County are mostly descended from a Fannin County family, of which John, Dan and Jim, half-brothers of Rev. W. I. McVey, were members.

West

Andrew Jackson West, who married a grand-daughter of Henry Grady I, Leah King Osborn, was born Jan. 14, 1853, and died April 27, 1891. Leah King Osborn West, the wife, was the daughter of Jonathon Osborn. She died Feb. 16, 1912.

Samuel West was an early settler, probably establishing himself here several years before the Indians left. He had the reputation of being quite neighborly. From Habersham county, he settled in eastern Gilmer near Robert Kincaid. He was the son of a Baptist minister, and had been faithful to the denomination of his father for a number of years.

Mr. West not only loved his church but sustained it with a liberal hand. B. B. Quillian records of him, "It was my privilege, in the company of the late L. D. Ellington, to visit Mr. West but a few days before he died.

"When we approached his bedside, he declared he was glad to see us. His countenance glowed with the hope of immortality while he talked of his bright prospects. At his request we had prayer with him, and bid him farewell."

He lived again in worthy offspring. A son, James M. West, was a popular preacher in the Baptist brotherhood. The rest of the children were all connected with some church. His pious wife survived him by a number of years. She was a sister to Congressman E. W. Chastain, and was a woman of deep and genuine religiousness, and for many years was a member of Ebenezer Baptist church.

This family is elsewhere mentioned as having appeared here while the Indians were still present. The name is still heard in the County. But the people of the name are probably no more numerous than they were 100 years ago. A. J. West, of Dalton, then of Ellijay and now deceased, spent most of his life in Gilmer. His son, Newnan, is a well known son of his, and is active in Ellijay and East Ellijay business life. He has a number of sons to carry the name into our future history.

We get an echo of pioneer Wests on August 3, 1939, when we hear that G. L., grandson of Andrew J. (merchant at Ellijay prior to the Civil War), great-grandson of Henry W. Grady I, lived at Atlantic Beach, Florida.

Whitaker

Silas Whitaker, during the 1850s, bought land from the old original Cody estate and settled on the eastern side of the Ellijay river half a mile from its confluence with Boardtown creek. The spot is in Cherry Log district.

He and his wife raised a large family. The children included. Jim, Ben, Jud, Lafayette; Mary Ann, whose husband was named Waiters, removed to California; Martha (Mat), who married Ned Stewart; Caroline, who became the wife of Jay Allen; Nancy, husband, John Allen; Ina, who married Bud Jones of

Boardtown; Catherine (Kate), married Bud Searcey; Lizzie, married Will Plemmons; Alice, married Dave Miller. Lydia, another girl, died when she was a small child.

No effort will be made to follow the numerous descendants of these children, except in the case of Benjamin. His wife's maiden name was Allen. Their offspring were: Beckie, married a Mr. Henry; Ida, who became Mrs. Andrew Searcey; and another girl named Charity who died at 7 years of age; Luke, Jud; Alice (who became Mrs. Johnny Ray of Ellijay); Dessie, who married a Mr. Wright; now a widow, she makes her home in Atlanta; Mack, Frank, Fostie, who married Leonard Henson of Ellijay, and is now deceased.

Luke is a prominent landowner in Boardtown. He has a number of children in the County. Judson, deceased, left children. A son, Cecil J., operates a grocery business in Ellijay. Cecil's son Ben is a produce dealer and distributor in the same area. Several of the other children of Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Whitaker removed from Gilmer and spent the rest of their lives elsewhere.

Judson I raised quite a family. There was an older girl named Huldah. An older son was named Lester. Other sons were Ben, John, Jess, Dave and Austin of the Tales Creek community. John and some other members of his family sometimes attended Boardtown (then called New Salem) instead of Rock Creek school in Cherry Log community. John was very helpful to smaller boys. He would turn teacher and show one how to read. But he migrated from this section a long time ago. Dave and Austin remained in Gilmer and raised families. Dave lived until 1960.

Descendants of the original Mr. and Mrs. Silas Whitaker that were girls changed their names through marriage and became ancestors of quite a number of the later generations. This would be true of the Stewarts, the Allens, the Joneses, and the Searceys. The families are represented among the most substantial families of the County. Harley Harper of Rome is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Bud Jones, his mother being a daughter of that couple, and his father Allie Harper.

And it should be added that members of the Whitaker clan have been generous and willing helpers in assembling facts about their family.

Whitener

In old records we hear of members of this family since Indian days. W. E. Whitener came to Gilmer from North Carolina and appears to have settled in Boardtown. For his son, W. A., was born in that section. W. A. was elected to serve the County in the legislature. But he died before time to take up his official duties.

Persons like Mrs. Lou Plemmons and her generation recalled John, who lived where Mrs. Plemmons resided during the closing years of her life, in Boardtown district. Columbus Whitener, former merchant of Cherry Log, was said by old neighbors to have been a grandson of this man's. John Whitener also came from North Carolina.

The same neighbors told of Mike, a son of John, who like Daniel Boone, died after a hearty meal. Ab Whitener, who wore a full, fluffy beard, went to California as a forty-niner. He was among those lucky enough to live to return—dressed in buckskin.

A John Whitener once lived on Rock creek in Cherry Log district. Ben Whitener distinctly recalls this family, and believes it was related to his family. A son, Johnnie, went to California. Other children were Lark, Ben, Lindsey and two daughters.

Brothers and sisters of Lum Whitener were Wes., Sis (who married Enoch Watkins), Bill (W. A.), Nance (who married John Turner).

Wes Whitener was a resident of Cherry Log, and for many years he was a justice of the peace for that community. And I understand he was once a business man of that section. His children were George, James H., Dollie (who married Harley M. Miller), Will. Wes married Miss Mary Watkins.

In mentioning the children of Lum Whitener, we begin with Ben, a well known figure in the business life of Cherry Log for many years.

Born May 19, 1880, Ben has been helpful in collecting data on his and related families. Ben has a rich resource of memories of the earlier days. When he was 14 years old he went, early in 1894, to Atlanta and remained for medical care about a month. He said he saw only one automobile in the city and that was used to carry railroad passengers to and from trains.

Ben had brothers and sisters: Julie, Simmie, Dan (D. M.), Lulie (married a Mr. Holt), Ida (married Lonnie Allen), Clistie (married a Boatner), Kiser, Ethel, who married Hoyt Patterson and located in West Virginia, Willis. Ben married a daughter of Henry Pettit. She is deceased. But Ben is now located in the Newhope neighborhood.

Lum Whitener, minister as well as merchant for many years in Cherry Log, lived to be 93 years of age. His wife, maiden name Miller, reached the same age before her death a few years ago.

W. D. Whitener, principal of East Ellijay school, is a son of W. A. Whitener. The widow of W. A. Whitener appears in our present (1960) telephone book. She lives on Chatsworth Road.

Wikle (or Wicle)

Occasional echoes from this time-honored pioneer family are still heard.

Miss Jessie Wikle, daughter of the late John H. Wikle of Cartersville, died in December 1943. Her funeral was held at Sam Jones Memorial church, Cartersville. John H. Wikle must be the man I met at his place of business in downtown Cartersville. For he told me he came to Cartersville a long while prior to that date from up in Gilmer County. I remember he was a brotherly sort of man, an ardent backer of Sam Jones during the active years of that distinguished citizen of Cartersville, and was a Methodist in religion.

Relatives, named in press reports of the day as relatives of Miss Wikle were listed as Mrs. C. E. LaFontaine, 1037 Euclid Avenue, Atlanta; a nephew, John Wiley Milam, Cartersville; an aunt, Mrs. Estelle Shepherd, Atlanta.

Henry Wikle, born in Pennsylvania, "bought out" Robert Smith in 1836. Mr. Wikle had first moved to Haywood County, North Carolina, where he spent his childhood. A very industrious, thrifty man, he provided well for his family. He efficiently shunned waste about his premises. He was relentlessly provident of the future. He was also kind and neighborly, always ready to assume his share of community welfare and responsibility.

He was a Methodist, and was liberal and generous in his support of the activities of his church. At quarterly meetings, he would announce that those from a distance who might be attending the session would be welcome to come to his home and make themselves his guests—as many as would. During camp meetings he never seemed satisfied until he knew that everyone of this same type of visitor had been cared for.

Henry Wikle married while he was living in Gilmer. He died in 1844 in his 59th year. His widow survived him by more than 30 years. In a number of

respects, Mrs. Wikle showed the generous quality and hospitality of her husband. She had abounding common sense, was esteemed as a homemaker.

In the training of her children she showed crowning aptitude, instilling piety and ethical principle indelibly. "Her godly example and admonitions will never be forgotten," opined Quillian, who further declared her a power in religious assemblies, leading in prayer and often moving to tears those little given to shedding them. She was beyond 80 when, in 1877, she died as peacefully as she had lived at the home of her son, J. R. Wikle, in Cartersville. She was buried at Cartecay beside her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wikle raised a family of 12 children, who all grew up. Somewhat over two generations ago they were all reported as still living, all members of the church and held in high esteem by the communities in which they lived. We have already hinted how the Wikles ardently supported Sam P. Jones to give moral tone and personal and civic conscience to Cartersville, to which the family largely (if not altogether) removed some time after the death of Henry Wikle.

Though this family long held its place of honor and esteem, apparently many members of the old generation (well known to their contemporaries) have for quite a period of time been extinct. The following news item from the Atlanta Georgian, gives further insight into the Wikles of the time:

Cartersville, Georgia, November 19, 1938.

News of the death of Judge Douglas Wikle at his home near Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday brought sorrow to Cartersville, his native home. He was once engaged in newspaper work here; and while serving in that capacity, he attended the organization meeting of the Georgia Press Association in Milledgeville, being elected its first secretary-treasurer. In this capacity he served for 10 years. He attended the jubilee session in Milledgeville in 1936.

Although a resident of Tennessee for many years, Judge Wikle often returned here for visits with his niece, Miss Jessie Wikle, and John Wikle Milam, his grand-nephew.

Even in 1960 the Wikle family is represented again after a long lapse of years, by C. P. Wikle and his brother, C. R., who came to Gilmer from North Carolina in 1940. They left a brother in Macon County, that state. Mrs. Maude Wishon, wife of Ghola, is a sister to C. P. and C. R. But the more recent Wikles do not "claim kin" with those of the old days.

Williams

The Williams family has been in Gilmer so long that perhaps no one knows but approximately the date of its coming. And doubtless there have been several different families of the name. Catherine K., wife of Jeremiah, was born July 12, 1801, and died Sept. 20, 1874. Levicy M. was born Dec. 17, 1829, and died the 5th of December 1864.

M. S., wife of Hiram Williams, born June 30, 1846, died Sept. 27, 1903.

Hiram Williams, a forty-niner, died Aug. 25, 1892.

John Fonzo, born 1839, died 1933. His wife, the former Mary Jane Teem, was born in 1845 and died in 1934. Descendants of this couple were Joe and Jack (both deceased), Bunyan, Fonzo Jr., Bill, Mima Jane (Parker), Palestine (Wright), Becky Ann (Kennemur).

These people are of genial, obliging nature, widely and favorably known over our area for a very long time.

Frank Williams was one of Gilmer's first blacksmiths. He was recorded as a man "of fine practical judgement." He had an eminent record in two wars—the Mexican and the Civil. He was an officer in both, bringing back from the Mexican war souvenirs that long remained in the family.

The recent death of Jack Williams of East Ellijay brought a feeling of loss far beyond his family and other relatives. He was not only a generous, patient friend, but was a man who loved music and encouraged its expression. He was devoted to his church.

Sons of Jack are active in our day. They are Russell, in business in Ellijay, and Fonzo and A. J. Jr., who are stationed, in their work, outside the state.

John Bunyan Williams is a pleasant memory to those who knew him while he lived. Emmett Williams is his son. He lives on the Cartecay Road.

Withrow

Three Withrow brothers came here from North Carolina while Gilmer was still its original size as shown in our map elsewhere.

One of these was James, who stopped in the Hot House community and remained there many years. After Fannin county was formed (largely from Gilmer), he in the early years of its history became its ordinary. His last years were spent at Morganton, where he long served the community as postmaster.

He was a man of genial philosophy. He believed in living each day well while we have it to live. He liked his jokes and a measure of lightness mingled with his devotion to serious business and religion. He entertained, in his home, ambitious young fellows who went to Morganton to study before the rise of the public high school system.

These fellows left his home full of pleasant memories of him and his family and the hospitality of them all. Mr. Withrow lived to an advanced age, dying in the early years of this century at the age of 96.

The other two brothers of James, Si and Jonathon, settled in modern Gilmer about the time James settled farther north.

Descendants of Si were John W., Bill and Joe. Children of John W. were J. J., Lee, T. C., Minnie, Alice, Annie.

Joe settled in Mountaintown. Bill went to Wayne county to live in 1902. The living James Parks bought him out at that time.

T. C. owns the old home place and Jack (J. J.) occupied till his death several years ago the next place east. Miss Mary Withrow, daughter of J. J., lives near T. C., her uncle.

Other Withrows in the County are Burley of Mountaintown district and Morris of Tails Creek. Grady of Mountaintown is a son of J. J. and Kenneth is a son of Grady's.

While Joe is deceased, some of his children still live. Clay is a son, and he left daughters, Mrs. Maggie Sellers and Mrs. Manila Pritchett. Mrs. Pritchett got her name in a singular way. She was born about the time of the battle of Manila Bay.

Wright

The first Wrights to arrive here came from North Carolina. In the group were several brothers: John, Van, Henry, Allen, Reuben. The last named lived, as a boy, at least for part of the time, at Ellijay. He recalled, among the sports of his early days, catching whitesuckers and other fish from the rivers about the community.

Reuben and Henry served in the Confederate Army. During the absence of Henry in the army, "Aunt Lou," a Negro woman who had belonged to the Wrights during slavery days, remained at his home with his wife.

During later generations we hear of Lonzo, Solomon, John II, Hiram, Reuben II, Thomas. And, of girls, Mary Jane, Parthena, Luvicie, Hester, Mandy. Leander and John II died in Gilmer, while Allen moved away.

Children of Van were: Joe Gallatin, Van II, Austin. Daughters were Rebecca, Hannah, Lucy.

Children of Tom were: Clarence (deceased), Robert, Ermil, Walter, Fletch, Steve. Steve and Ermil are merchants in Ellijay. Walter is employed by Steve. Daughters of Thomas are Ora. Bessie, Lillie, Grace, Dorothy. Ora has been for several years deceased.

Ambrose and Willis were sons of Reuben Wright II.

Hiram Wright, son of Reuben Wright I, was once a citizen and merchant of Ball Ground district and later of Ellijay. His children and grandchildren are among the best known members of this family.

His nine children were: Ellen, Josephine, Bill, Jasper (recently deceased), Rachel, Elsie, Effie, Mae, Ruth. All the girls married, and several of them live outside the County.

The Wrights are characterized by friendliness and love of music. Members have contributed much talent and effort to give the people of our section musical programs.

CHAPTER 14

War Clouds,* Growing Perplexities

Henry Pettit, honored citizen of Cherry Log district, was a keenly observant and impressionable lad while the Civil War was in progress, and has left us some valuable and interesting data on life in his neighborhood during those days of strife and turmoil. Mr. Pettit was intelligent and truthful as well as sympathetic in his attitudes and statements.

In reminiscing several years before his death, which occurred Aug. 28, 1929, he said, "The last five years before the Civil War I lived at Ellijay. My father, William Pettit, died when I was a mere infant. My mother had married, several years later, Frank Harris, who became a captain of the 39th Georgia, Company G, in the Confederate Army.

"At the opening of the war I was 13—just turning 14. My stepfather had joined the Confederate ranks in 1862. He got shot in the neck while in the Southern army. The wound inflicted was serious. He never, in fact, fully recovered from it, although he lived a generation after. He was being hospitalized in Athens, Georgia.

"I drove a slow buggy to Athens to bring him home to Cherry Log community, to which we had removed upon my mother's marriage to him. We hoped this would enable him to have the rest and quiet he needed, in addition to the care he would have at the hands of his own family. I made the trip and brought him back, taking four days for the round trip.

"But the very day we reached home bushwhackers descended upon us. These men, entrusted to guard the property and lives of women, children and old men and to help to maintain homes and make a living on their farms or elsewhere, threatened to kill Harris.

"And they made a captive of me. About that I will speak further.

"Why these outlaws should want to finish a man wounded already in the jaw as well as in the neck—and weak to exhaustion from suffering, besides—I cannot understand. They could hardly accuse him of 'laying out of the army' when he would have been merely lying in a hospital if he hadn't been with us. But that's how it was.

"When Mr. Harris had sufficiently recovered to return to the war, I took him in a hack that ran between Ellijay and Cass Station, a few miles northwest of Cartersville. Together we entrained, and I finally delivered him to a Confederate hospital back in Athens.

"During the war I was a mere boy and was much needed at home. Besides, my stepfather was in it, and already badly hurt. But even at that, it was a desperate struggle to save my life from roaming bands of outlaws, wolves who had been set to guard the sheep, whose robberies, murders and other depredations are the darkest stain on the history of Gilmer County.

"I was obliged to hide in the mountains a few miles southeast of my present home. My hideout was at Deep Gap Spring at the foot of the Big Bee Mountain. I chose a certain log (a portion of it lies there now, 1927) to rest my head upon.

* Before the Civil War started Gilmer County had assumed its present outline. In 1863 post offices and communities were Ellijay, Santa Lucah, White Path, Mountaintown, Cartecay, Prince Edward. Ellijay was the only village.

"My only companion through these long vigils was a bull terrier named Watch. He was as good as his name. He watched faithfully, constantly. He bristled and was ready for battle at a moment's notice any time. At night Watch lay right by me. He was certainly a lot of comfort and companionship. For fear of discovery by these enemies and marauders, I could have no fire. I could permit no one to come and see me.

"When Watch was listening at any disturbance in the woods, he would hold up a paw and chatter his teeth faintly and rapidly. He would never put down that foot till he located the cause. When forced by rains and storms, we sought the shelter of nearby cliffs.

"One morning before day some men came by our camp. Their voices resounded up and down Squirrel Branch till I didn't know what to do or where to turn. In fact, I was on the point of plunging away reckless of consequences when the thought struck me that such a move might hurl me right upon men who would make me a prisoner, perhaps take me a long way from home.

"I rigidly controlled myself, taking a position close to a tree. The men passed on without noticing me. It was quite a while before I learned they were merely neighbors out on a peaceful mission of some kind.

"Fortunately for me and Watch, the season was fall and, for many weeks, not severe. Our problem of shelter thus in part solved, we were still pressed constantly for food. We got rations from home. When these ran short, I slipped toward home. I crept near enough to stand on the hillside above the house and toss a pebble on the roof, which was my preconcerted signal. Someone came out and spoke, maybe into darkness, or otherwise gave a prearranged sign in return. If it were safe to do so, I ventured closer.

"An old lady of our acquaintance wanted me to go to a religious meeting on upper Cherry Log. I had just returned from my Athens trip and was quite worn out. But I at length decided to go with her. John Harris, a half-brother, was also to accompany us. It was Sunday afternoon. The old woman was going up toward the present home of Ed Griffin, when I sighted in front of me a group of horsemen coming quietly down the road. Suspicion shot through me. Harris at first had refused to turn out of the road, but the old woman and I prudently did so. The group on horseback proved, upon closer approach, to be soldiers in Yankee uniform—John Hatley's crew of about a dozen men, foraying out from Cleveland Tennessee.

"When John Harris finally saw who was ahead he had hissed in a much suppressed tone, 'They air Yankees,' and was glad enough to dart aside. He rushed for a rail fence a little way below the road, on the west side. The old lady and I sat down on a log apart from the road and hidden in the bushes, what we thought a safe distance from the road. But, unfortunately, John was discovered. Several soldiers galloped in pursuit of him, dashing to a gap in the old fence. They rushed so close to me and the old lady they also discovered us—much to the perturbation of both of us.

"The captain of the Yankees I recognized as John Hatley, a former neighbor. At the same instant I heard somebody's musket cock behind me. And I got behind a tree so that it was between me and the group of soldiers at my back, for it was this group who now threatened to shoot me on the slightest provocation.

"Hatley called to me, 'Surrender!' I was now forty or fifty yards from him. I answered that I would and began walking up toward him. I kept my eye on him and shortly recognized him as a native of the Turniptown section of Gilmer County. I spoke to him politely by name.

"Hatley was quite insulting. 'Who the hell do you think I am?' he sneered. I replied, 'I don't think, Captain Hatley, I know; for once you came to our

house at Ellijay and spent the night. I went to Stot & Ware's grocery and got you a pint of whiskey.'

"Hatley then admitted his identity, telling me to consider myself a prisoner. He then marched me down the road a little way to the home of old Henry Watkins, a strong Union man, who had a brother just as strong in his Southern sympathies. The soldiers demanded supper. The old lady and John Harris had trudged along with me.

"When supper was ready the soldiers left me, their boyish, smooth-faced prisoner, in the yard of the Watkins cabin. They were rather loose and seemingly forgetful of me. But I had not forgotten myself. Turning to the old lady I said, barely above a whisper, 'I believe I'll git away from here.' And no sooner mentioned than executed. I shot away like a shadow, and about as quietly. My two friends, at a more leisurely pace, followed me.

"The soldiers spent the night with old Henry. Meantime I hurried down to see old man Harris and to hurry him away before Hatley should come along, find him home and probably kill him. For at heart I was as much concerned for the old man as for myself.

"Next day, sure enough, Hatley and his crew came cantering on down the road. As they approached, I was on my way down into a pasture field near our house. Hatley saw me; it was too late for me to run, and I could not excuse my behavior of the night before.

Hatley roundly abused and cursed me for running away, and asked me where I was going. I replied, 'to catch my horse.'

"Captain Hatley saw my horse and eyed it covetously. He permitted me, however, to walk on toward the horse. My mind was working like a flutter mill. It had to. In the short space I traversed I made up my mind that, when I came to the animal, I would leap onto his back and dash down through the pasture at the risk of my life and with the one hope that I might round the hill back north of Uncle Tobe Searcey's before a Yankee bullet zipped me.

"I trusted thus to save my horse and myself both at this stroke. But the appearance of other Yankees under a leader named Noblett, at this instant, confused and frightened Hatley's men, who, taking the other Yankees for a superior force of Confederate soldiers, were precipitately routed. And down the pasture they galloped in headlong flight. Abandoning their horses at Rock creek, they began clambering up the bluff on the north side of the creek about where Homer Smith has a garden plot.

"But by establishing signals and calling back to each other the Hatley group soon discovered it had run from friend rather than foe. The men all soon after dropped back down from the bushy bluffs and re-crossed the creek into the open again.

"Meantime I had not dashed away as I had at first contemplated. I had taken a bridle with me. My horse walked up and thrust out his head to me. By the time I had put the bridle on him, Noblett was approaching and demanding the horse for himself. He took the animal away. I'd like to have resisted such an outrage. But what could I do? I never recovered my loss. But I still retained my life and freedom.

"Yankees and local raiders, under Bill Slate and other guerilla leaders, sometimes clashed in actions so minor as never to surpass mere skirmishes. Slate and his crew were better at robbing and killing than fighting an armed foe. They fought only when they had to. Beyond a few horses killed and a man or two wounded, he and his men suffered but little from these brushes.

"Once, while the war was in progress, corn gave out so completely we couldn't learn of any anywhere in the County. And bread stopped with it. I went with Mrs. Sarah Ward and her little white-headed boy, Bud, to Talking Rock, where there was a merchant mill in operation.* The round trip was nearly forty miles. We were not able to get our load of wheat ground and return the same day. But the little Ward boy put up such a vociferous protest at having to spend the night with strangers, his mother had to strike out for home with 'im. I followed, as soon as I could, with several hundred pounds of flour. And at least a few of us ate.

"At one time, on account of raiders, I was obliged to bury in the ground hams, bedding, and other home necessities. Four days of rain succeeded, and everything in my cache came near spoiling."

Sentiment on secession had been so much divided the men representing the County had voted against it. A large majority of those enlisting or enrolled for army service, however, went to the Confederacy. Civil life, receding rather than advancing during the war and reconstruction, was designed to be aided by "home guards," who were to assist the aged, the weak, and the women, if necessary, with field crops and such other tasks and duties as might aid them in living and maintaining the lines of battle.*

But most of these became a law unto themselves, committing so many outrages that men like Fate Sims and Pink Collins later took the lead in evening up scores.
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Sentiment on secession had been so much divided the men representing Gilmer County at the Georgia Convention on Secession had voted against it. These representatives were Joseph Pickett and W. P. Milton.

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*The "merchant mill" was a branch of operations of the Atherton Mills, an industrial center, on Talking Rock creek, near modern Blaine, Pickens county.

Before the Civil War, Bill, Tom and Jim Atherton, as the men were known to their neighbors and patrons, began to develop on the shoals of the creek a cotton gin, a wool carder, a sawmill, the wheat mill, a corn (grist) mill, and a store. Quite a portion of the store's business was transacted in the form of barter. The Athertons made cotton thread.

William F. Green, whose father, Alfred Green, a Confederate soldier, died at Camp Hatton, hauled for the Athertons. William Green drove a wagon carrying cotton thread to Ellijay, Cartersville, Rome, and Dalton.

"The thread was marketed in five-pound bunches," Mr. Green told the writer, "and 30 and 50 of these were packed into a bale.

"The Athertons kept about 25 persons on their premises to assist regularly in the operation of the different phases of their enterprises. They furnished these helpers.

"They closed their business about 1885. Tom Atherton's chimney still stands. Jimmy lived down on the creek. Billy lived above the road in sight of their places of business."

But a large majority of those enlisting or enrolled for army service, however, went to the Confederacy. Civil life, receding rather than advancing during the war and reconstruction, was designed to be aided by "home guards," who were to assist the aged, the weak, and the women, if necessary, with field crops and such other tasks and duties as might aid them in living and maintaining the lines of battle. In 1865 the Gilmer Inferior court ordered payments to soldiers' families.

But a large percentage of these so-called guards became a law unto themselves, committing so many outrages that men like Fate Sims and Pink Collins later took the lead in evening up scores.

In the spring of 1864 Gilmer County was still, in a sense, behind a natural rampart of mountains that greatly hampered invasion in main force. Though the roar of heavy artillery, thundering more than forty miles across the Cohutta mountains was heard in various parts of the County.* It gave a grim reminder of a phase of the war we had escaped, but told us of the fearful realities of war just beyond our mountain walls.

Natives who had slipped away and joined the Yankees at Calhoun, Tennessee, and at other points, as in the case of John Hatley, contemptuously referred to by southern sympathizers as "hogbacks," sometimes led detachments of Union soldiers back from Cleveland, Tennessee and other points as they were, in turn, seized by the main Union army under General A. E. Burnside, moving down by way of Knoxville toward Chattanooga.

Since East Tennessee and western North Carolina were strongly in sympathy with the Union, such small groups could come up the Ocoee-Toccoa river by the old copper-ore transportation route between Ducktown and Cleveland, Tennessee. They thus came upon a virtually unprotected border of Georgia. Probably, in fact, the first invasion of Georgia occurred in this way.

But no Union individual or band of men was ever known to attempt the trackless mountains about our northern, northwestern and western borders. For all the harassing, pilfering and commandeering of the Yankee bands that reached us, it would probably be correct to say they did no more mischief than lawless natives (wolves already inside the fold) of our region.

An incident in the life of Major W. R. Welch of Ellijay serves to show the perilous role that men, especially of age for military service, found themselves in. Major Welch, having been captured by a band of Yankees led by John Hatley and another man named Hardin, was taken up Boardtown Road. As he and his captors approached Kell creek, he managed to persuade these leaders, who had fallen somewhat behind the main body of men, not to shoot to kill as he attempted to dash away for his life.

He plunged down Kell creek toward the Ellijay river with bullets flying thick and fast around him. But fortunately, for him, the banks and the low thick growth along the banks partially shielded him. He made such headway no one was able to overtake him.

Another factor favoring Major Welch was that Hatley was a native of Gilmer County, or at least a former resident. His loyalty to a neighbor could have swayed him more than outside alliances.

Bud Searcey of Cherry Log district recalled that horse-stealing was suppressed, during at least a part of those strife-racked days with a vigor with iron in it. This was when two men tried mule stealing and fled with their loot clear into Kentucky. But a posse of still more determined men of that section pursued them,

*Some of this awesome roar was from the battle of Dalton, May 7-9, 1964.

overtook the thieves, killed them and recovered the stolen animals. Mr. Searcey also recalled the burial at Rock Creek of John Holt, a Confederate soldier. The funeral occurred while the Civil War was still in progress. Since the funeral was military, soldiers were said to have crossed guns over his grave to fire their salute.

Mr. Searcey also referred to Joe and Bartlett Pinson as courageous captains of the home guard, feared by the lawless generally.

William Ellington, interested only in the truth, told me "about all the fighting done in Gilmer County during the Civil War was between guerrilla bands from both sides. Some of the Yankee raiders made their irruptions from east Tennessee.

"Our own so-called guards never ventured far. In a clash of guerillas, one day in Ellijay, there was spirited waving of big pistols in one of the bands. Two men were drunk. One killed the other on the old jail site."

Mrs. Lou Plemmons, remarkable of memory, told Charles H. Smith, a neighbor, still more about guerrilla bands. Mr. Smith has kindly made his data available for this History.

According to her version, there were two bands, of course, one putatively representing the State; the other was headed by a Yankee named Noblett, a product of Fannin county. Whether these gangs operated much throughout Gilmer remains clouded. But they both covered the northern districts all too well. This section was closest to Tennessee and the Yankee lines. The Southern side was designed to consist of Confederates detailed to home-guard and enforce a semblance of law and order at home.

Among their duties was apprehending stragglers, searching for deserters, forcing into military service those who attempted to hide out or otherwise evade entrance into the war or who might be tempted by Yankee bounty and cross the state line to enter the Union army in Tennessee. Other types accused of crime were fed into the hands of these men, whose rule amounted to that of vigilantes.

While many of the State Guards had served in the Confederate ranks, and were, in cases enough to deserve mention, brave and loyal men, virtual anarchy, with pillage and murder added, resulted from permitting them to become a law unto themselves. Very, very few men have the character to assume such grave responsibilities.

Men like John Gatewood and John Hatley—to name a man on each side if either may be said to have a side—even threatened the lives of mere boys, as in the cases of Henry Pettit and Scott Smith. The same was also true of the Noblett crew, Phillip Whitener, furloughed home, was eating dinner at a house known in modern days as the Lou Plemmons home in Boardtown.

He was hurriedly apprised that the bushwhackers were coming He hastily rose from the table and ran away in the direction opposite them and toward a small branch. Without searching or even questioning young Whitener, they opened fire upon him, hitting him in the head and killing him instantly.

Such a gang (John Gatewood was in the lead) killed Albert Ward at a home in the Turniptown section. Mr. Ward's people maintained the man had no chance to prove himself innocent of anything and that he had a furlough from the Confederate ranks in his pocket at the time. Lewis Key, Elbert Searcey fell victims to the same crowd or one of like notoriety.

There was still another victim of gang attack. His name was Harper. Members of the gang stood by and watched Mr. Harper die. Neighbors recalled

that Harper, during his final agonies, made eccentric motions. These same motions, they saw as poetic justice, were duplicated by the gang leader in his dying moments.

Noblett and his band of 85 men, all mounted, galloped thunderously up Leading Ridge toward a community now known as Cherry Log in the district of the same name. It was a critical time of the war and the insolence and oppressions of the Yankees were growing.

The band drew rein at the home of Tobe Searcey, who lived where Charley Hice lives now. Mr. Searcey was away with General Lee. Dismounting, Noblett's men swarmed into the Searcey home. Mrs. Nancy Searcey, Tobe's wife, was at home with her small children. Some of the men began climbing into a loft, where they located cans of honey hoarded against the stark needs of the family. They began to hand down and portion out the cans. They also seized bedclothes and whatever else came to hand.

But Captain Noblett was not so base. He had a streak of sympathy for his neighbors. Mrs. Searcey hurriedly appealed to him, calling him by name. He is said to have answered her civilly. She fearlessly and desperately reminded him of the outrageous conduct of his men, some of whom were already galloping away into the distance with blankets and miscellaneous articles dangling and flying from their saddle horns.

"Would you starve and freeze me and these helpless children?" she demanded of Noblett, who can be said to have had some discipline over his command. He sternly ordered his men to lay down what they had taken, and all in his hearing are said to have obeyed.

Such depredations led many women and old men, with the children of the families, to refugee into Tennessee and actually get behind the Union lines. Here they could find clothing, food, shelter, and protection. Sometimes the refugees worked for money that would buy things.

After the surrender of the Confederates, outbreaks of violence continued. Dock West was shot. At Ellijay, William P. Milton was shot and killed as he sat at his supper table. William Cox was killed in the discharge of his duty as a public officer.

A man named Hatley (could this be John?) rode into Ellijay and, in the full light of day and without any effort at concealment, shot James G. Inlow in the head. Inlow, who was sitting on the sidewalk, died on the spot. A man named Clack died at the hands of Pink Milton, later church leader.

Highly dramatic was the near-hanging (or would you say lynching?) of Neal Hunnicutt, in which incident the man proved almost as tenacious of life as Sam McGhee of Tennessee. Mr. Hunnicutt was accused of breaking into a store. A mob threatened his life.

Bartlett Pinson was said to have gone out to the old wooden jail on Dalton Street, where Hunnicutt was confined. He then turned to a store where he could get a length of rope. Jack Burch of Boardtown asked Pinson, "Why are you getting the rope?"

"To hang a dog!" Mr. Pinson is said to have retorted.

Hunnicutt was duly taken out of jail and, in true frontier, vigilante style, the rope was attached to his neck. It looked like a real hanging was on its way. Mr. Hunnicutt was led to an improvised gallows, all set up for his particular accommodation.

A gaping crowd waited, breath bated to see the job finished. Just as Hunnicutt stood, preliminaries over, ready for the trap under him to be sprung,

Fate Milton walked up to the scaffold and cut the rope. The crowd gasped at Milton's audacity.

He stood there with his knife still in his hand as if he had other work to do with it. He defied anybody to do anything about what he had done. He, in fact, threatened to have it out with anybody who wished to step forward. Mr. Hunnicutt, quickly sensing it was his move next, vanished without ceremony. In the excitement, he got away completely. No one punished Milton. Hunnicutt subsequently established himself in Arkansas.

Another tremendous sensation occurred near White Path in 1865. Bartlett Pinson, while quietly plowing in his field, was shot and killed from ambush. Joe Pinson trailed suspects far into the wild uninhabited region of the Big Bald mountain, where it gave out. The Pinsons suspected three men, who were never apprehended.

By 1865, the social order had fallen into such an appalling state that despair itself shrouded the whole outlook. General William Tatum Wofford came to Ellijay. He had invited men of every shade of opinion to meet him to discuss their common welfare man to man. He urged the wisdom of honorable Confederate surrender and concilliation as the only way out of their plight and confusion and wreck of estate. He stood for sanity, temperate judgements and actions, with justice and co-operation, so far as these could be obtained.

For already the final and complete collapse of the Confederacy was hastening near.

Slackers and all others were asked to come to Kingston, and to come unarmed. When this important step was over, about all the men who were of any account came back home and manully went to work in hope of recouping their sadly depleted fortunes. "A majority of the people in the white belt of north Georgia (in general) accepted reconstruction as a choice of evils."

The national government, for a while, issued corn and other supplies to many citizens near and far, and the people who got them had to go to Cartersville after them. For at the close of the war Gilmer is said to have had 2,106 indigents.

My grandfather, upon resuming farm work the first crop year after the surrender fared like the rest. He had acquired Colonel John R. Hart's mare, named Fanny, that had been in the war. For she had had a minie-ball hole in her neck and a little patch of white hair on each side where the bullet passed in and out. This beast my father, as a little white-haired boy, plowed many a day.

When the small children were in bed, my grandmother polished the wooden spoons, knives and forks and the homemade chairs. Salt from smokehouse drippings was highly appreciated. This was poured onto Irish potatoes boiled without fat and with the jackets on. That was the only dinner course for many a day. Toasted beet parings served for coffee. But 1865 proved a good crop year and things began to pick up.

In or about 1872 mail was going through northern Gilmer but once a week. A man named Warlick was carrying it from Cartersville to Ellijay, where it was unloaded at a store operated by Cobb & Milton (Bill). Thence it was rerouted northward by White Path, and from there on to Morganton, Blairsville, and perhaps still farther. It took a week to make this trip.

The founding of the Duckett mills at East Ellijay goes back to this period—about 1873.

Everybody was free, legally, to engage in the manufacture of whiskey till "the surrender" of the Civil War. Then the national government denied the people

this privilege, and set in to stamp out its illicit manufacture which followed. But for years practically no native could be found that was willing to be a revenue officer. So outsiders were brought in to serve in this capacity. They wore the uniform of national (Yankee) soldiers.

Then the crookedness of natives combined with the "foreign" crookedness supplied by the incoming element. But two crooks, it was proved again, do not make a straight. A certain old notorious native (whose name was never disclosed to the author) got himself into favor with the revenue ring and, for a while, almost monopolized the illicit liquor trade.

He hid liquor in tanbark, packed it in boxes of chestnuts, peas, beans and corn, and shipped it as far away as Texas. For a bribe he often gave away blockaders to revenue officers, and provided a reliable list of witnesses. He then went ahead of officers intent on a raid and informed the betrayed distillers of the coming of the revenue officers. For another bribe he and his ilk provided a new list of witnesses—false this time.

Revenue officers went out with a pocketful of blank warrants on which they could write the name of anybody, with witnesses. Their latitude to arrest and molest was as the distance from the east to the west. Little lawyers for fat fees added further snarls and loose ends to the web of state.

Such practices were sure to bring ugly incidents and to spring numerous booby traps. For example, a gang of revenue officers came up from their Atlanta headquarters to "stamp out liquor." The name of their notorious leader appropriately was—Blacker. One of his associates in strong-arm tactics was named O'Grady.

John Emery was among several persons of upper Boardtown engaged in distilling illegally. Some of this official crew raided his house and found evidence to confirm their suspicions of what he was doing. Emery, away from home when the officers arrived, got wind, nevertheless, of their probable intention to visit his community.

Hoping, perhaps, to reach his house ahead of the officers and remove, it may have been, incriminating signs and articles, he came running toward his door. It was the middle of January 1876, growing dark and desperately cold. O'Grady, for no reason that could ever be learned, instead of commanding Emery to surrender, shot him down. Emery fell dead at his own door.

By chance two neighbors, having stopped at the Emery home to warm, were discovered there of course by the officers. The visitors were Bud Rogers and Bradley Hallford. Hallford had with him two of his small sons, not long orphaned of their mother.

Ignoring the boys, the officers threw their father and Rogers into chains and fastened them together. They drove the two along as if their captives were headed for a slave market or were mere beasts, first into Fannin County, northward several miles. Then their charges were headed southward. In those days there was not one bridge between the Fannin County line and Ellijay—a distance of twelve miles. Yet streams are frequent.

The prisoners were forced to wade all these unless the ice proved thick enough to hold them up. The chains much hampered the progress of the men and added to their burdens and distresses.

The final stopping place of the well clothed, dry and mounted officers and their bedrabbled and freezing prisoners was Ellijay. It was still night, though the party had traveled, all told, thirty miles. The outraged prisoners were there reluctantly released. But they still felt impelled to challenge and offer resentment at the treatment accorded them.

Hallford, a former officer in the Confederate armies recruited from his section, sought out a man in Ellijay that he knew to be his friend. And this man was William Ellington.

"I want the truth of our treatment to be known," he said firmly to Mr. Ellington, "and justice accorded in Mr. Emery's case."

Ellington was clerk of the local court. He took up the cause of Hallford and Rogers, publishing the story of their treatment. The account spread. Other papers circulated the facts. Ben Hill and Dr. W. H. Felton were in Congress at the time. Ellington's letter was read in debate there, and his position defended. Justice-loving people were keenly aware of how much farther such tyranny in the name of law and order could go. They determined that, at the earliest possible hour, the scales of justice should be wrested from such oppressors.

The beginning of the end of these highhanded tactics began with a crafty piece of drama. William Ellington secretly sent to Washington for a special detective, who landed as a tramp printer, tattered as to clothes and wearing old run-down shoes. He went by the name of Kinney. Not a person suspected him till he had gathered ample evidence and returned to his home in Philadelphia.

The explosion of such a bombshell right in the camps of corruption caused lasting and bitter animosities. For quite a while the friends of Mr. Ellington were apprehensive for his life. In the turmoil, the turn of some events favored him. O'Grady had been brought to trial—or nearly so. The people were much excited. But he got a change of venue, craftily escaped punishment, and was soon on his way for parts unknown.

All cussedness, foreign and domestic, was arrayed more or less against Ellington. He was the focus of the storm, the demand for a victim. His frailty of size and figure proved, through the current turbulence, deceptive. The real size of his physical and moral courage began to appear.

Having been forewarned of trouble one day, as he passed homeward up Owltown creek, he was forearmed. He discerned two men—also armed—still in the uniform of Yankee soldiers running across a field to intercept his path.

The weight of a trusty gun in his pocket was now doubly welcome. When the men approached, they proved, in fact, to be part of a desperate scheme of revenge upon himself. Ellington talked fearlessly and forthrightly at once to them. He sensed that he must stand boldly or he would die at once.

With his hand on his gun he put up the bold front he needed. He soon discovered the heads of the two strangers had been stuffed with a maze of falsehood, besides. He had already determined to shoot his facts before his bullets. While this exchange was going on, one of the soldiers cursed the other and said several times, "Let's go." He presently left and was shortly followed by his companion.

This was but one of the clouds of doubt and uncertainty through which the sun of a better day had to penetrate.

CHAPTER 15

1875 To 1900

David Garren, who was postmaster and merchant at Ellijay in 1875, has enriched the story of those lean, hard days through an ancient merchant's record found by some children in an old abandoned house near the site of the old Garren home. Bill Wingate lives at the same spot now. Mr. Garren's spelling has been retained.

The old combined Garren store and post office stood on a corner now a part of the lawn of the Dr. E. W. Watkins home and was just east of that home. The postmaster used often to stand, after mail arrived, in front of this building and call out mail to a customary crowd milling outside.

Years later, this same building was moved northward some 50 yards and still stands (1961) on the same triangular block but farther north and off the lawn of the Watkins home. It has been, more recently, drug store downstairs, telephone headquarters and central office upstairs.

In and out of this building came, 90 years ago, a constant flow of persons all but forgotten by other than the oldest of our inhabitants.

Among these visitors to Mr. Garren's place were the following.

A

J. C. Allen, Juan Anglin, T. Atherton & Company.

B

Martin Barnes, Kim Bearden, John Bennett and N. H. Smith, A. Bishop, Blacker (an unusual name in the County, probably that of the notorious Federal revenue officer whose gang killed John Emery in Boardtown district), A. Blankenship, Louis Bowden, H. M. Bramlett, Alfred Bramlett, Richard Brown, Hiram Buckner, James Buckner, John Buckner.

C

G. R. Chapman, William Charles, D. W. Chase, who got "one pound of shot by Ben," John P. Cobb, L. C. Cobb, A. J. Cole, J. P. Cole, Peter Cole, Lum Copeland, Mrs. Corban, P. Corban, L. Cox, Thomas Cox, Mrs. A. E. Craigo, Bail Craigo, Thomas Craigo, J. C. Crigler, C. S. Crook, Taylor Crawford, Thomas Crump.

D

Joseph Dale, Lewis Davenport, Garrett Davis, James H. Davis, Joseph Davis, T. J. Davis, John Deal, Mrs. Elisha Deboard, A. J. Dodd, Thomas Deborde, Dillen Dover, A. A. (Allen) Duckett, J. W. Duckett, Laurie Duckett, Ben Dugger, J. M. Dunnahoo, James Dupree, John W. Dyer.

E

P. R. Early, W. S. Elder, Bourdon Ellington, F. J. Ellington, Henry Ellington, William Ellington, Jack Elliott, (Mr.) Lou Ellington, Ellington & Wilson,

Thaddeus Ellis, James Elliott, William Elliott, Charles Erwin.

F

E. Fain, Andy J. Fore, Nancy Jane Farmer; Cleo Foote, who married John Sellers, later killed by Terrell Bailey; H. R. Foote, Alec Foster, B. R. (Ben) Frady, Thomas Frady, C. H. Foote.

G

John Gibbs, Christaman Greer, Levi M. Greer, T. T. (Tom) Greer, Levi Gunter, Bud Griggs, Sgt. Gallow (apparently from a contingent of troops sent in when some native killed a revenue officer).

H

John Hampton, John Hampton Jr., W. M. Hampton, Franklin Harper, James Harper, William Harper, Sarah Harris, George Hawshaw (said to have been a Negro school teacher), B. J. Henson, George Henson, Mrs. George Henson, John Henson, C. S. Hill, Seborn Hill, Wilborn Hill, B. M. Hipp, William Hipp, Bud Holt, W. L. Holt, John Hunnicutt, W. J. R. Hyatt, Len Hyde, reportedly in 69 fisticuffs when bullies came into town looking for trouble.

I

Alfred Ingle, A. Ivans.

J

F. Deboard James, Hicks Jarrett, J. I. Jarrett, C. H. Jones, Dock Jones, Hamilton Jones, Henry J. Jones, William Jenkins, James N. Johnson, John Johnston, William Johnson.

K

A. J. Kee, Dick Kell, Kim Kell, Robert Killian, Mrs. Kirby.

L

John Leach, Eld Lee, B. A. (Ben) Logan, A. J. Logan, James Long, Joseph Long, Martin Long, Sherell Long, Long & Weaver, William Long, H. A. Lumsden.

M

McKinney & Jarrett, Bailey McKinney, Marion McClure, John B. Martin, A. J. Mathis, L. T. Mathis, Franklin Mealer, Miss M. L. Miller, L. D. Milton, Jasper Moreland, John W. Moreland, Mark Moreland, Nuel Moreland, W. McCloud, L. H. McCarthur, Mrs. Milton, L. D. Milton, P. H. Milton, Jim M. Minton, Riley Minton, Jim's father.

N

William Nelson, Delia Noblett (Colored).

O

Oak Bowery (Masonic) Lodge, Mrs. Obar, Sarah Obar (several members of this family were killed by a train at the Sixty-One trestles many years later. These were probably Arch, a boy; Sam, Julius, McCay); James M. Orr.

P

Mrs. Alston Painter, David Painter, J. M. Painter, Lucia Painter, Marion Painter, May Painter, Thomas Painter, David Parks, John Parks Jr., Riley Payne, E. S. Perry, Mrs. Eugenia Perry, S. Perry, Elijah Pettit, C. Pickett, Joseph Pinson, Susan Pinson, Andy Plemmons, Mark Plemmons, Peter Plemmons, S. J. Plemmons, Jasper Poindexter, Julian A. Pollard (one of the founders of the Ellijay Courier, Sept. 1, 1875), John H. Powell.

Q

W. T. C. (Colquitt) Quillian.

R

G. H. (Gabe) Randell, Nancy Randell (sister of Ophelia), Thomas Ratcliff, W. C. Ratcliff, Granville Roberts, J. J. Roberts, Pierce Roberts, R. F. Roberts, William Roberts, John Rogers, Newton Rogers, Elijah Russell.

S

Martin Sanders, J. Scott, Tobe Searcey, Marion Sellers, Jane Sharp, L. H. Sharp, William Sharpe, Wilburn Sheppard, Richard Sisson, Augustus Smith, Harriet Smith, J. E. P. Smith, John R. Smith, John Smith Jr., Nat Smith, Samuel Smith (who got a "broom by Julia"), John Spears, Lou Starks, Jeff Starks, R. Stephens, Dicey Sumner, Solomon Sumner, C. S. Saxton, Henn Sims, Allen Sisson, Lucius P. Smith.

T

Mrs. Buckner Tatum, Lieutenant F. B. Taylor (probably an officer of U. S. Troops still around, mainly suppressing whiskey), Cleveland Taylor, Mrs. Thomas, D. J. Thomas, Brannon Thompson Jr., John A. Thurmon, T. H. Triplett.

W

Amos Waiters, Bud Walker, William Walker, H. E. Ward, E. W. Watkins (this refers to Dr. E. W. Watkins Sr., who was county school commissioner on November 18, 1875), J. M. Watkins, Loney Weaver, Marshall Weaver, William Weaver, Henry Webb, Emmett Welch, M. J. West, Calvin Wheeler, James F. Wheeler, Richard Whitaker, Mrs. Whitner of Boardtown, Hiram Williams, John A. Williams, A. J. Williams, B. Wilson, John F. Wilson, William Wimpey, Miss Ann Withrow, James Withrow, Jonathan Withrow, John W. Withrow, J. J. (Josiah) Withrow, Woman (not identified except as "colored"), Brant Wright, John Woody.

Y

Dan Yother, Marion Yother.

Some articles sold in the Garren store, with prices, were: Barbecue corn; honey, 10 cents a pound; gaiters, $2 a pair; squirrels, 5 cents each; candles, 5 cents each; plug tobacco, 20 cents a plug; 18 eggs and two candles sold for 25 cents; sorghum syrup was 75 cents a gallon. A sheep could be bought for $1.50.

Somebody got seven marbles and apparently some cash, the whole deal totalling 15 cents; butter was 20 cents a pound; eggs were 10 cents a dozen; chickens were 10 cents each; huckleberries (blueberries) were 15 cents a gallon; gun screws were for sale but were not priced; fiddle strings, 10 cents each; a straw hat, 20 cents; a bedstead, $5 each. As these were made down near Talking Rock, the price could be kept low.

Salt sold three and one-half pounds for 10 cents; anoline, 25 cents; a small can of blacking, for five; bitters, 75 cents; chinkapins, five cents a quart; four segars and one quart of chestnuts went for 20. Somebody got credit, for painting two boards, the sum of $1.50. Wool was 30 cents a pound; a bottle of RRR, 50 cents; one load of wood was 50 cents also. And, on Christmas eve, came these purchases: two double-faced heads, 50 cents; balance on Doll, 50 cents; horn, 20 cents.

FACTS, INCIDENTS, 1875 TO 1900

1875

Sept. 10. Ellijay insists on two mails a week. Mail routes already radiate to Morganton, Cartersville, Dahlonega, Ducktown (Tenn.) .

Oct. 1. Meetings in the interest of the proposed Marietta & North Georgia railroad are being held at Mountaintown, Buckhorn, Cherry Log, Tickanetley, Cartecay, Ball Ground, Town Creek.

Oct. 16. "There are apples enough grown in north Georgia to finance the building of the Marietta and North Georgia railroad."

On Wednesday of last week W. J. R. Hyatt started 48 head of cattle to Atlanta. On the same day Hicks Jarrett left for Atlanta with thirty-odd head, and the day following Col. B. K. Dickey of Cherokee County, North Carolina (en route there too) also passed through with 42 head.

Dec. 3. L. M. Long is carrying the mail between Ellijay and Cartersville.

Dec. 10. On Saturday past the following men were elected councilmen of Ellijay for the ensuing year: Dr. J. R. Johnson, Dr. J. M. Watkins, C. Pickett, Barnett Wilson, J. E. P. Smith.

1876

The Ellijay Town council for 1876 was: C. Pickett, J. R. Johnson, J. E. P. Smith, B. Wilson, J. M. Watkins; J. R. Johnson, president; C. Pickett, secretary; G. H. Randell, marshall.

The Gilmer County Board of Education consisted of William Simmons, W. Woodard, W. R. Rackley, E. W. Watkins; J. F. Pettit, president; E. W. Watkins was school commissioner of the County.

The spring of 1876 Capt. W. H. Wells was in Ellijay, with assistant surveyors, to locate a road north.

Jan. 26. John Emory (or Emery), who resided near Santa Luca, was shot and killed on Friday night last, supposedly by one W. O. Grady (or O'Grady), a United States soldier. Grady was arrested Sunday by Sheriff Randell, and is now undergoing a preliminary examination.

A few days later General Phillips was asked by one of O'Grady's friends if he would not defend O'Grady, and he replied he was already employed to prosecute the case. But the inquirer pressed the general further with the inquiry, "What fee will you receive?"

"That lady's (Mrs. Emery's) tears are my fee."

And he has seen the case through as far as he can to the present. "It'll take some lively lawing to get the prisoner clear."

Feb. 13. Friday night of last week United States Deputy Marshall James A. Findley and fellow officers of Gainesville dropped into Cartecay district and captured two stills, a good wagon and a team and 120 gallons of whiskey. He shot at Lafayette Southern, the owner of the property named above, seven times. The officers then went to the house of James Sitton, who was sick in bed, and carried him off a prisoner.

April 11. Dr. R. R. Hunt dies at White Path.

April 15. At the request of the Zion Hill Baptist church, Elder J. B. Lee ordains to the work of the Baptist ministry Julius Pickett.

April 22. "The revenue frauds formerly so largely practiced are bound to come to an end, investigation will be had."

May 10. Col. Alda Johnson of Cartersville and Judge Underwood of Rome address a rousing railroad meeting at Ellijay.

June 7. Arrangements are made to work a crew of convicts in White Path gold mines, while 60 more go on north into Fannin county to grade on the M & N G railroad. An Irishman named Johnny, a convict, falls from a chaingang wagon and fractures his skull.

Aug. 27. About 30 miles of grading on the M & N G railroad has already been done in Gilmer.

Steamboat service on the "Mary Carter," as far north as Carter's Quarters, is announced. Thence merchandise might be wagoned into Gilmer. Goods from New York, Boston, and Charleston often came by that route.

E. and H. T. Anthony of New York advertise their stereopticons and magic lanterns.

Aug. 31. Seven Indians have settled in a canebrake at the head of Little Owltown creek, within four miles of Ellijay. They are Cherokees, the tribe that inhabited Gilmer County till 1838.

1877

January Early. Intense cold prevails

March 27. Pierce Roberts, pioneer, dies.

April 7. The telephone is now the sensation of the day.

April 10. "The federal troops broke up camp and raised the siege last Monday and left, fully believing that we had been here long enough to take care of ourselves. We would consider a man who believes there ever existed any necessity for their presence here a most contemptible jackass or a fool. They have treated our people with the greatest courtesy. The fact of their being sent here as a kind of police or bodyguard for a set of drunken codfish revenue officials was just as humiliating as the purported necessity was to us."

This is the local editor's comment on the departure.

April 16. Federal troops, sent to Gilmer to help revenue officers, leave the County.

April 21. D. Garren of Ellijay buys gold (dust and nuggets) at $1.08 a pennyweight; sells shot, 15 cents a pound; powder, 40; country jeans (probably woven on hand looms in homes of the County), 50 cents a yard.

Mail for Ellijay from Atlanta is coming around by Dahlonega. It lies over a whole week at Amicalola before it even starts for Ellijay.

May 7. Outrages committed by revenue officers in Gilmer and several adjoining and nearby counties appear in detail in the Atlanta Constitution.

May 9. The same newspaper excoriates, editorially, such outrages.

After Gilmer's most sensational court trial, Anthony L. Goble is convicted of the murder of Wofford L. Brown. Goble is sentenced by Judge George N. Lester to be hanged.

June 22. The sentence is carried out on a scaffold up in Pump Springs hollow. The affair was public, and of course the crowd, made up of people who care for such things, was said to have been large.

June 30. The Ellijay Courier contains a confession of Anthony L. Goble, 26 at the time of his execution. His father was a miller and distiller. He went to school one day; did not know the alphabet. He was hanged on a Monday, remaining suspended for 30 minutes.

July 10. Cherry Log community objects to a saloon that attempts to operate there.

On a hot day of this summer an important ceremony occurred at Ellijay. This was breaking ground for the new railroad. Joe Pickett, representative for Gilmer in the Georgia legislature, broke the dirt. Convicts were present to make the grading a reality as well as a ceremony.

A crowd was present and a great cheer went up as "Uncle Joe" started at a spot near the present Methodist (former M. E. South) church. General Philips was present. So were engineers, sighting out for the grading crew. The weather was so hot General Philips suggested the prisoners be permitted a rest period in the shade. During their operations in the heart of Ellijay these graders dug up the stump of the old oak under which William Ellington I preached his first sermon in Ellijay.

July 24. M. S. Swann of Cartecay is Gilmer's mill and bridge builder.

Sept. 1. Mail to Carter's Quarters by Tails Creek starts.

Sept. 15. A young man named Jarrett, attempting to swim a millpond on a plank, slips into deep water when the board turns. Being unable to swim, he drowns. His body is recovered.

Sept. 21. "Beef cattle are all the rage now. Quite a number of droves have passed through Ellijay recently en route to Atlanta, the will-be capital of Georgia."

Sept. 28. The bridge across the Ellijay river (just below the modern Logan bridge) is newly done.

Nov. 1. The Ellijay Courier speaks out in an editorial strongly favoring Atlanta over Milledgeville for capital of Georgia.

Captain W. L. Appleton will run his new steamer to Carter's Landing (Carter's Quarters, the Coosawattee Old Town of Indian days) about the first of December (1877) next and weekly thereafter. "We hope our citizens will

give him their patronage and prepare for winter shipments on his boat. Captain Appleton is a real clever gentleman."

Thus Gilmer once shipped by ship.

Gilmer ratifies the new state Constitution (that "required 150 men 40 days and 40 nights to frame") by 728 votes and Atlanta for state capital by 885.

Dec. 21. "Messrs. C. H. Jones, Monroe Chastain and Bunyan Chastain, men of Gilmer, left here last week for Atlanta to enter the Medical College in that city."

Most reconstruction problems have been solved, legal snarls untangled and Gilmer and the state of Georgia become generally hopeful.

The Georgia Legislature provides a loan (funds accruing from convict hire) for the construction of the M & N G railroad.

Tremendous snows; 25 inches of snow falls on Flat Mountain in a single night; settlement there snowbound for a week.

Dec. 22. William Tatum dies.

1878

Jan. 25. Ellijay has about 175 inhabitants.

March 1. Three mails a week are arriving from Dahlonega.

March 22. A semi-weekly mail route to Spring Place is established.

April 5. The idea of the talking moving picture "by combining the telephone with the kinesegraph" is published locally. The phonograph, as at present developed, is designed to be a fundamental part of the machine. Several principles much later employed in the moving picture industry are broached.

April 13. A hack line will be established between Ellijay and Dalton.

April 26. Bud Long has taken the contract to carry the mail to Spring Place.

May 28. John P. Fouts, once a judge of the inferior court, dies.

June 5. Martin Ross, pioneer, dies.

June 14. Ellijay has nine mails a week.

July 17. A lost child creates a temporary stir in Diamond district. It is soon found, however, and the excitement subsides. This vague roundabout reference may have in mind Alma Lockaby, who became separated from companions on Catpen Mountain.

July 26. The free schools of Gilmer County are under full headway and flourishing if one compares them with schools of a few years before.

July 29. An eclipse of the sun occurs near sundown. The weather for the day—in Atlanta at least—was favorable for observation.

Aug. 9. There are several fish traps in the Ellijay and Cartecay rivers near town. A large number of fish have been caught, and occasionally a man or boy.

Aug. 21. Between two and three hundred people in Gilmer have "professed religion" during the past month.

Revenue officers are also reported as very active.

Aug. 31. Rev. James C. Mulkey dies.

Sept. 21. Frank Hammett, Campbell Wallace, Colonel Robertson, E. A. Withers (master mechanic), General W. M. Phillips, R. F. Maddox are all connected with the M & N G railroad. Mr. Hammett is financial secretary and Mr. Maddox financial agent.

Oct. 11. Gilmer ships Atlanta this season about $15,000 worth of livestock.

Nov. 11. The M. E. Conference of Georgia meets at Ellijay seminary.

Nov. 20. The Cherokee Nation, under Chief George Bushyhead, contemplates moving back to North Georgia.

1879

Jan. 17. Horses and mules of the County suffer from an epidemic of blind staggers.

April 4. James W. Parks is fatally crushed under a sawlog.

April 25. The Marietta and North Georgia railroad reaches Canton, and its gravel train suspends its work with the construction crews.

June 26. Gilmer interests itself in a proposed scheme to open the Coosa river, as far north as Carter's, to a much accelerated volume of navigation.

July 4. G. F. Smith, J. M. Watkins, E. W. Watkins, J. W. Smith, J. R. Johnson have diplomas from medical colleges of "good reputation."

Aug. 1. Miss Emma Tabor assists J. W. Henley in teaching Jasper public school.

Aug. 20. The corn crop is 25% better than that of 1878.

Oct. 11. J. B. C. Quillian retires from the Douglasville Star.

Nov. 13. The Ellijay Courier suggests that a rally in behalf of the Marietta and North Georgia railroad be called at Ellijay, and that North Carolina and Atlanta representatives be urged to participate with the citizens of Gilmer and other interested counties.

Nov. 21. Capt. Bluford M. Sims of Apopka, Orange County, Florida, reportedly prospers in the flowery state, to which he migrated soon after the War between the States. Captain Sims is an ex-Confederate soldier. He has a friend, Dr. Z. H. Mason, also in Florida. Dr. Mason went there from Gilmer too.

1880

March 5. Henry C. Freeman, recently of Cairo, Illinois, builds an ambitious flume for nearly four miles along Turniptown creek.

March 19. Young Dr. C. Pickett, at the Atlanta Medical College, delivers an able valedictory address to the graduating class, of which he is a member.

May 7. The mills owned by Henry Watkins and his son Joe and located on Cherry Log creek are burned, with the loss of all machinery, carpenter tools, 75 bushels of corn and about 20,000 feet of lumber worth $3,000.

Aug. 6. Tax returns mount $84,518 over 1879.

Aug. 27. Hope of a railroad revives as the M & N G railroad reaches a point two miles north of Canton.

Nov. 26. Gilmer citizens pledge and donate to a fund for constructing a railroad.

1881

Jan. 28. Estimates place the cost of constructing the M & N G railroad through Gilmer at $120,000.

Feb. 1. A $10,000 bonus is being raised provided a railroad is completed to the Fannin county line by November 22, 1882.

March 3. David Sorrells dies at Columbus, Indiana. He once owned a tract of land on Flat mountain and lived there.

March 11. J. M. Bearden of Ball Ground district graduates from Medical college.

March 25. T. H. Tabor promotes the manufacture, in Cincinnati, of a household churn of an improved type.

May 1. Miss Chambers, the "prophetess," speaks at Buckhorn.

May 27. L. C. Cobb and O. L. Searcey open a store on Buckhorn hill, nine miles north of Ellijay. Proprietors announce "first-class country store. If you haven't money, will take chickens, eggs, corn, wheat, feathers, wool or anything that can be eaten or sold."

July 8. Diamond District is organized. W. D. Sparks is elected J. P. and W. M. Woody and R. D. Mathis constables. The voting precinct is to be at the Blackwell place on the Hardslate road, the people deciding by ballot, also, to call the district Diamond.

Aug. 4. "The harvest is ripe and the laborers are few and Cobb and Searcey at Buckhorn want 1,000 men, women and children to go to the mountains and dig ginseng, lady slipper, pink root, mayapple, and other kinds of marketable roots and herbs."

Aug. 11. The W & A railroad employs William Ellington to collect in both Fannin and Gilmer counties minerals, stone, clay, timber to be displayed at the Cotton States Exposition, Atlanta, October 5, 1881.

Sept. 19. Gilmer participates in the nation-wide sorrow over the death of President James A. Garfield.

Oct. 1. M. V. Teem gins and packs the first bale of cotton ever ginned in Gilmer County. This was in southeastern Gilmer, probably Ball Ground district. Our rolling south lands only produce cotton on a small scale—Ball Ground, Town Creek, Coosawattee, Leaches districts. Northern portions will sprout cotton and mature it enough to produce bolls. But the bolls won't open.

It is said the County has maintained two cotton gins and has ginned as much as 500 bales in a season. Yet there are probably grown people in Gilmer County who never saw a boll of cotton, and still more who never picked one.

Dec. 7. Rev. D. W. Chase dies.

Dec. 20. John L. Osborn and Louisa E. Parks are married. On the following day 75 guests of the couple are served dinner at the home of the groom's father, Rev. N. L. Osborn.

1882

May 18. "We have received the first number of the Cartersville American, a newspaper launched at Cartersville, Ga. It is filled with choice reading matter, and is worthy of a place in every dwelling in Georgia. Success to the new enterprise."

June 8. C. E. Adams of Boston, Mass., is appointed president of the M & N G railroad.

Aug. 3. The adjoining county of Dawson has a newspaper called the Moniter published at Dawsonville.

Aug. 10. Ellijay post office establishes a money order service, and J. R. Johnson is the first man to buy a money order.

Aug. 31. J. W. Duckett completes his milldam across the Cartecay river at East Ellijay near an ancient ford in the stream and approximately where the modern bridge crosses it.

Sept. 23. Convicts clear the right of way for the advance of the M & N G railroad.

Oct. 5. Gilmer goes for Gen. L. J. Gartrell for governor.

Oct. 8. Casaway Page and Mrs. Julia Sorrels are married. This wedding, having occurred on Flat mountain, was the first marriage ever to take place there, where the community consisted of but a few scattered houses.

Nov. 16, Strenuous efforts are under way to penetrate the southern boundary of Gilmer with a railroad by November 22.

Nov. 23. John W. Duckett is carving out a set of millstones from C. A. Ellington's quarry, two miles from town. He says the quality of the grit is as good as he has seen, and the quantity inexhaustible.

1883

Jan. 4. "A short time since Nat Smith killed five wild turkeys at three shots. Nat was in the War (Civil)."

The Chase mills, on Cartecay river, are sold at public outcry to John W. Holt for $1,501.

Jan. 18. Duckett's new mill does its first grinding at Ellijay dam.

April 12. Flat Branch, a post office to serve a community between Ellijay and Tails Creek post offices, is established.

May 6. Mrs. R. H. Robb organizes a W. T. C. U. in Ellijay with 57 members. Officers of the new organization are Mrs. M. C. Greer, president; Mrs. Sallie Ellington, Mrs. Nannie Welch, Mrs. Lillie Johnson, Mrs. Georgia Watkins, Miss Delia Craigo, Miss Mary Kirby, Miss Cannie Wilson and Miss Mollie Frady were other officers.

May 10. James Carnes is bossing a squad of convicts on the M and N G railroad.

May 24. Gilmer County has another flour mill. It is owned by Henry Watkins in Cherry Log district. It was erected by J. W. Duckett, "the boss mill contractor of this section." We recorded the burning of this mill May 7, 1880.

May 27. William Hill Sr. dies in Mountaintown district. He was born Sept. 5, 1799, the year George Washington died. He moved to Mountaintown district in the year 1845, where he resided until his death.

June 23. Three convicts—two whites and one Negro—flee the grading crew of the M & N G railroad. A shot from a guard kills one of the white men, named J. W. Hammond.

June 28. Revs. W. A. Ellis, Baptist; L. D. Ellington, Methodist; and W. T. Hamby, Methodist, South, are Ellijay pastors.

J. R. Johnson and S. Leard Keown are Ellijay doctors.

C. M. Quillian, J. C. Allen, Thomas F. Greer are Ellijay attorneys.

July. Trains are regularly reaching Marble Cliff, on the southern border of the County.

July 19. Mr. Harper, a geologist and botanist of Cincinnati, has been observing and prospecting about Gilmer for the last few days.

Aug. 2. J. W. Duckett's new sawmill did its first work yesterday morning. It is a complete concern. Mr. Duckett says it will saw 5,000 feet per day.

A bill has passed the Legislature to incorporate Ellijay.

Aug. 16. Ellijay is incorporated with J. R. Johnson, E. W. Watkins, Joseph Long, A. Bishop, G. H. Randall appointed commissioners. The town is extended three fourths of a mile in every direction from the courthouse. On the fourth Monday in October 1883, and annually thereafter, an intendant and four commissioners are to be elected by the qualified voters of the town.

Sept. 13. Railroad grading is proceeding half a mile east of Ellijay. This is the first public notice that the railroad will not run through Ellijay and up Boardtown Road, even though grading had been done a mile or so up the road before the shift in routes.

William Spencer says his tannery six miles northeast of Ellijay (in Turniptown community), when completed, will be one of the largest tanneries in north Georgia.

Sept. 30. While the Governor of Georgia has been authorized to furnish free 250 convicts to work on the grading of the M & N G railroad, only 158 are employed, some 20 of whom are disabled.

Nov. 1. Tanbark walks (in Ellijay) are getting to be fashionable.

Convict camp 16 is being constructed on the railroad route in Cherry Log district (at the northern end of the long straight by White Path railroad station), it being purposed to house the convicts in it by Christmas. Camp 13, about seven miles farther south near Ellijay, is being simultaneously abandoned.

Nov. 22. Ellijay's town council is composed of G. H. Randall, marshall; C. M. Quillian, clerk; William Spencer, intendant. Commissioners are L. M. Greer, J. R. Johnson, W. F. Hipp, W. A. Randall.

Dec. 20. Convicts clear the railroad right of way where Ellijay railroad station now stands.

1884

Jan. 6. Atlanta registers one degree below zero. Gilmer thermometer readings run 10 to 15 or more degrees colder than Atlanta nearly all the time, depending, of course where we take our readings.

Feb. 18. Mrs. Martha Hill dies at 84. She moved to Gilmer from Buncombe County, North Carolina, about 1845.

Feb. 29. Tremendous snows.

Cartecay, during 1884, has seven or eight stores, several more being under course of construction.

March 22. Sunday School workers meet at Ellijay. They organize the Gilmer County Sunday School association, electing officers; J. M. Watkins, president; E. W. Watkins, David Mulkey, G. W. Pettit, Jesse Anderson, D. W. Cook, vice presidents; L. M. Simmons, chorister; T. W. Craigo, treasurer; G. H. Randell, marshall; W. F. Hipp, H. C. Tabor, W. G. Hix, T. J. Painter, A. J. Hutchison, executive committee; L. B. Greer, secretary.

April 26. John L. Osborn, only son of Rev. N. L. and Mrs. Hattie Osborn, dies at 23. He was the father of Mrs. W. H. Gudger.

May 20. The Gilmer Grand Jury asks that three covered bridges be built near Ellijay—across Ellijay, Cartecay and Coosawattee rivers.

May 29. J. W. Duckett presents the grand jury with a plan for a bridge across Cartecay river near his mills (now at East Ellijay). "The jury recommends that the bridge be built and Mr. Duckett's design will doubtless be followed."

Judge J. C. Allen, ordinary, projects two more bridges, one to cross Coosawattee river and materializing in the old Cobb bridge, the site of which is marked now by stone pillars, the other to span Ellijay river at the east end of River Street, Ellijay. Both bridges are to be covered.

June 5. Some bears in our (Mountaintown) mountains were being hotly chased a few days ago. But the bears are still in the lead.

June 12. Until the M & G railroad reached Jasper, mail from Atlanta to Ellijay took two days; now, 7:30 a. m. to 4 p. m.

The M & N G railroad reaches Ella Gap, in Gilmer, only four miles short of Ellijay.

July 10. The Cobb bridge across the Coosawattee river was let to J. W. Duckett for $1,147.

July 17. The rails on the M & N G railroad extend to the Cartecay river.

July 24. The first steam thresher to reach the County was operated in Ellijay Valley by Stephens Brothers of Pickens county last week.

Aug. 14. "The (Ellijay) town authorities speak of re-opening the streets that were closed as a part of the old grade of the M & N G railroad. We favor the action."

Aug. 21. The M & N G railroad runs its first excursion to Atlanta. Excursionists stayed over a day and two nights in Atlanta, returning to Ellijay August 23.

Sept. 17. Mrs. Mary Logan, wife of Julius Logan, dies at B. A. Logan's. She was 82. Born in Rutherford county, North Carolina, she came to Gilmer in 1847.

Sept. 18. The M & N G railroad decides to locate Ellijay depot near the home of J. I. Jarrett.

Oct. 9. Convicts are removed from the M & N G railroad. (This action was believed taken because of protests at the iniquitous lease of convicts to build it).

Oct. 23. The Ellijay bridge will be completed this week. (This must refer to a bridge between Ellijay and the railroad station).

Work on the new brickyard is progressing rapidly.

Oct. 30. "The M & N G railroad is controlled by Joseph Kinsey of Cincinnati, who is president, and Messrs. Pulsifer and George R. Eager, all reputed millionaires. Mr. A. G. Kinsey, brother of the president, a perfect gentleman, represents the owners in Marietta, while the operating department is in the hands of J. B. Glover."

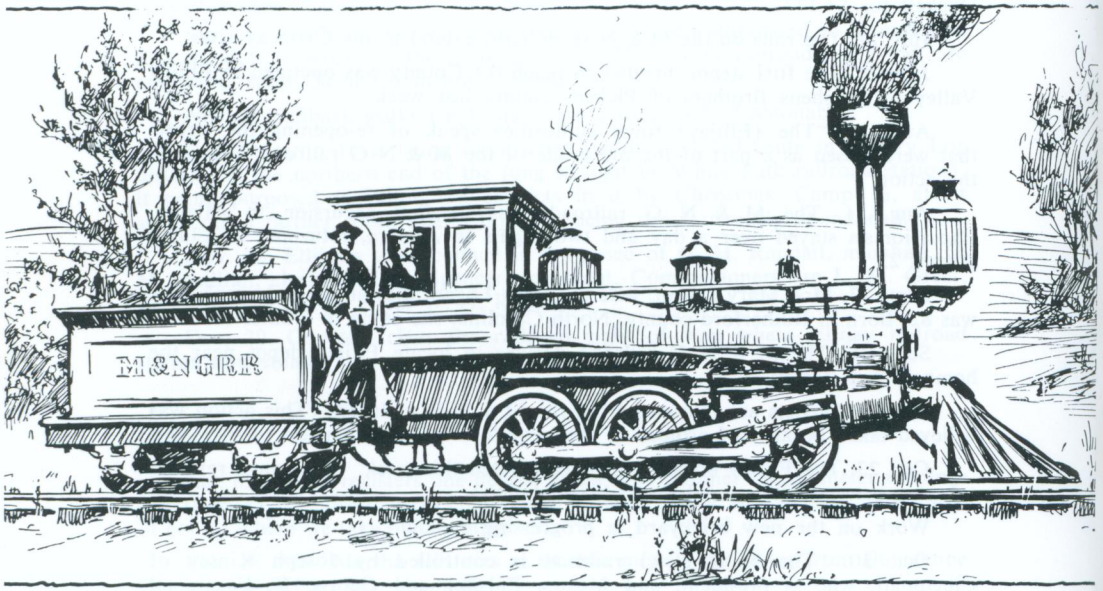
The road has passed through many vicissitudes, has been boosted and bled, and still encounters opposition.

Nov. 6. Gilmer goes for Grover Cleveland for president. The vote is reported 373 for Cleveland to 147 for James G. Blaine, his opponent.

Surveyors of the M & N G railroad stake off town lots about Ellijay railroad depot. As this is half a mile east of Ellijay and across the Ellijay river, such proceedings somewhat perturb Ellijay businessmen.

Dec. 2. The locomotive called the "Little Mary," headed north with two loaded cars trailing it, crosses the Cartecay river (several hundred yards south of the Ellijay railroad station) and mingles its puffing and hisses with the crowd watching and waiting to welcome it. But it was still 18 days before it rolled up in front of the depot.

That would make the exact date of the arrival of a train at Ellijay Saturday, December 20, 1884.



"LITTLE MARY"

Little Mary, first locomotive used on the narrow-gauge Marietta & North Georgia Railroad; first passenger train to Ellijay; Joe Glover, Conductor. W. E. Chester, engineer, shown in the cab, later removed the Porter-Bell Job's front Drivers and substituted a four wheeled pony truck. The other man is Dee Hammett, fireman.

Courtesy of the Frank A. Munsey Company, publishers, 280 Broadway, New York, who made the author a present of their original drawing from which the above cut is made.

1885

Feb. 26. Major F. S. Wallace, chief engineer of the M & N G railroad has removed to Marietta. George R. Eager, superintendent of the same road, has also changed his residence to Marietta.

March 13. Officers of the M & N G railroad are Joseph Kinsey, Cincinnati, Ohio; I. W. Pope, Cleveland, Ohio; A. A. Campbell, Atlanta, Georgia.

March 19. The railroad turning table is working nicely. The builders (Reeves by name) were at work on it the fifth of the past February; and the table stood between the Ellijay depot and the Cartecay river.

June 11. "The Messrs. Odem and Wood, practical gold miners, who have been working for some time on the Leak property (Cartecay district), have discovered probably the richest gold vein in Georgia.

"One pound of ore beaten up and washed out produces 10 pennyweights and eleven grains of gold. A number of prominent citizens who have visited the mines say that it would be difficult to describe the mine as richer than it is, as the gold can be seen glittering in the rocks a distance of 15 feet."

June 25. Two large new engines and several new coaches have been put into service recently on the M & N G railroad.

July 4. The Jasper News suspends and the Ellijay Courier once more becomes the official organ of Pickens county.

July 16. W. A. Cox is postmaster of Ellijay; Mike McKinney, depot agent.

It is reminisced, in the Ellijay Courier, that nuggets of gold weighing from one-half a pound to two pounds, troy weight, round and smooth as a biscuit, were found during gold-mining days at White Path. Thousands and tens of thousands of dollars were found there in a short time.

Other Gilmer gold mines recalled were Lovinggood, Ayers, Leak, the last two having yielded nuggets weighing from one to twenty ounces. Leak nuggets were all shapes. Up to the year 1849 there had already been taken from the Leak mine 118,000 pennyweights—and as much has since been removed.

The Eureka, the Old Cooper and Colonel Heath's mines, near the Leak, were also reported as "still promising." The Old Cooper was worked as far back as 1835, when Mrs. Cooper (Indian) labored alone in it. Dabbling along in a branch, she made good wages.

The gold of Gilmer is the purest found anywhere. Occasionally a little silver is mixed with it.

About Diamond district, gold, silver, diamonds, sapphires, garnets, kaolin, and corundum are said to exist; also sulpholis, "sulphurets, nitrates, arsenates, alumina, indicative of rich and extensive lodes."

Aug. 6. A Bishop's brick store at Ellijay nears completion.

Aug. 27. Mrs. B. B. Quillian, who has been visiting the mountains the past few weeks, returned to her home in Cass, Georgia, on last Wednesday. "Mrs. Quillian is one of the most intellectual and accomplished ladies in Georgia."

Sept. 24. For more than ten years already, John Hunnicutt has been Ellijay's tanner. His tannery was located just below the old Pump Springs, with which began a water supply for Ellijay.

Cold Water Templars, an organization pledged not to use whiskey, tobacco or profanity is organized at Ellijay.

Oct. 1. The T. H. Tabor residence, now under construction, was so well built that it stood until recently razed as one of Ellijay's most tastefully designed and well constructed homes.

Oct. 8. A bill for the relief of the M & N G railroad requires the road to be completed to the North Carolina line by Sept. 1, 1887. The railroad company is required to build one and one-half miles every month till the road is completed. The legislature also authorizes Governor McDaniel to credit the railroad $2,000 for every such span completed. At the completion of the road, Georgia agrees to surrender all claims against the railroad; and it, in turn, yields all claims against Georgia. The bonded debt of the railroad to the State (and Georgia's subsidy to the enterprise) amounts to $66,420.

Oct. 29. Gilmer grunts and chafes along under the burden and shame of two dozen registered distilleries.

Nov. 5. Martin V. Teem purchases of Mark J. Mears of Ellijay the Mears hotel, another dwelling, some town lots, and rural property. Mr. Mears prepares to emigrate to Asheville, North Carolina.

Dr. E. W. Watkins buys the drug store property and the nearby dwelling formerly belonging to Mr. Teem.

Nov. 16. Grading begins at Ellijay for the northward advance of the M & N G railroad. Plans are projected to reach White Path, seven miles away, by Jan. 1, 1886. Free white labor, under Clabe Walton, is continued.

A trespass law forbids indiscriminate use of the M & N G railroad right of way and premises by the public.

Dec. 17. The clearing away of timber from the railroad right of way and sub-grading of its route north proceed.

The grand jury this year establishes a county court, which is, however, abolished Dec. 24, 1888.

1886

Friday, Jan. 1. Track laying on the M & N G railroad north from Ellijay begins with ceremony. Mike McKinney and R. L. Herbert drive the first spike. Ellijay has remained for a little over a year the northern terminus of the road; by April 24 it reaches White Path; passes beyond the County's bounds about June 15. By Aug. 5 it has attained the Toccoa river, twenty miles north of Ellijay in Fannin county.

Jan. 6. "Mike McKinney removed his family from Ellijay to Blue Ridge, in Fannin county, last week."

Jan. 7. The M & N G railroad reaches the first of the two trestles over Sixty One creek, a mile north of Ellijay.

Jan. 11. Bitter cold, probably some six degrees below zero, prevails.

Jan. 21. White Path is planning to lay off lots, build a half-mile long walk to the railroad station, a bakery, a laundry, and other improvements and conveniences for the accommodation of 75 to 100 summer guests.

Feb. 11. Mrs. W. F. Robertson makes a name for herself as manager of the White Path hotel. Her name and fine personality were a tradition thereabout for many years.

M. J. Mears, former popular Ellijay hotel man, informs Ellijay friends he has returned to his old home, Leicester, North Carolina, to live.

Feb. 25. The superintendent of construction on the M & N G railroad, Mr. Clabe Walton, has sent the construction crew to Marietta, having no further use for it now. The railroad track has reached White Path creek. Here it will

stop for a short season until the bridge across the creek is completed and ballasting is finished from Ellijay to the creek. In the meantime sub-grading will be pushed preparatory to laying track on to Green's Gap (probably Cherry Log).

As track laying had reached the creek crossing in Turniptown valley Feb. 17, "Uncle" Osborn Holt, one of the County's early settlers, welcomes all hands with baskets of apples, and took his first ride on a railroad.

March 15. R. M. Pulsifer is president of the M & N G railroad; George R. Eager of Boston and J. P. Glover are superintendents; F. S. Wallace, engineer; C. R. Walton, superintendent of construction.

March 18. Ellijay has two flourishing schools, two literary societies and a reading club, five lawyers, four doctors, seven preachers, three blacksmith shops, and a first class hotel.

Crawford and Ratcliff now have their new axle and spoke factory completed and are ready for any kind of wagon work.

April 1. The highest flood waters ever recorded on Gilmer streams are noted.

April 29. "Col. E. W. Coleman of this place (Ellijay), a young lawyer of ability and promise, has lately issued, as a real estate agent, a circular advertising for sale about 30,000 acres of mountain land, about 2500 acres in good farms, with 1100 additional acres, and other values.

"This energetic young lawyer is rapidly engrossing extensive business in the land agency, and all those who have lands for sale would make it pay to see him. His circulars have been sent out over the North in answer to almost daily inquiries about prices of lands, the qualities, and such information."

The M & N G railroad is selling bonds at par, and expects to be in Murphy by fall.

May 13. It is very likely that a new town (later East Ellijay) will spring up over at Duckett's mills. The tract given by Mr. Duckett to the railroad for the location of the depot at its present place is now being run off and town lots will soon be on the market.

June 10. Dr. W. L. Harper, Ellijay physician, removes to Arkansas.

A telegraph line to Blue Ridge is projected for early completion.

June 24. Five hundred people, on an excursion to White Path, are addressed by Rev. C. M. Ledbetter and Major C. W. Hubner of the Atlanta Journal. A Negro band furnishes music. Torrents of rain pour on the gathering.

On Monday night following a short but splendid entertainment (at White Path) by "Betsy Hamilton" was enjoyed by Major Hubner, Mrs. Hubner and Mr. Hills, and many others. Miss Betsy was the star and elicited merited applause. The sale of lots Tuesday morning was better than expected, forty being sold at an average of $36.

June 24. The telegraph line from Marietta, by way of Gilmer, to Murphy, N. C., will soon be put in operation. The telegraph company is waiting for the necessary posts, and these are being hauled almost daily to the depot at Ellijay.

Aug. 5. Judge George N. Lester, Gen. William Phillips, Revs. Hawthorne, W. H. Cooper, George S. Eumlia, and Gen. John B. Gordon arrive in Ellijay for the purpose of addressing the people of Gilmer, assembled there, on the subject of prohibition.

Aug. 10. A public well is dug at Ellijay.

Gilmer, in a contest at the polls, goes against prohibition, the areas already handicapped the most voting most heavily for whiskey.

Aug. 25. At 3:50 in the afternoon telegraph service between Ellijay and Jasper, 19 miles south, becomes effective. W. S. Coleman, first to avail himself of the new service, sends a message to a friend in Jasper.

Aug. 26. The Cox mill, with its picturesque overshot wheel, is erected by Mark Cox on the northern edge of Ellijay. It was razed within the memory of this generation.

Aug. 31. The Charleston earthquake, which caused no small concern in Gilmer County, began six minutes before 10 p. m. It was preceded by a dreadful roar. A second shock followed 30 minutes later. Shocks continued from half an hour to an hour apart all night. Hearing the strange and unusual sounds inside their houses and being unable to see any cause for them, some of the people were so alarmed they fled from their own homes and remained with neighbors for the night.

Oct. 28. John Carson, a waterboy with the M & N G railroad construction crew at Cox cut, tampered with a pistol Monday and accidentally shot himself in the leg. Many years later, this boy, having grown up, attained quite a reputation as a fiddler and singer of folk tunes. He long lived in Atlanta. But he has been dead for some years.

Ca. Oct. 28. Dr. J. R. Johnson heads a fund drive for a bell for the Baptist church, and the girls of the congregation seek offerings to place chandeliers in the church.

November. Blue Ridge, appropriately named, present seat of Fannin county, is founded a few miles north of the Gilmer line upon a spot that was in old Gilmer. The modern city there now has historic markers recording early struggles and advances. Fannin county has very creditably erected an artistic marker to its soldier dead. Blue Ridge also has wisely reserved park space in easy reach of children and adults, and these grounds have commendable pieces of equipment.

Dec. 2. "Rev. S. C. Osborn passed through town (Ellijay) Friday last with a riding cultivator, the first one brought into Gilmer. Mr. Osborn without doubt has the best orchard in the County, and raises fine stock every year. He also purchased the first reaper used in the County."

The family of W. R. Coleman of Talking Rock moves to Ellijay, and it would be apt to remark that the acquisition of these people was a distinct gain to all of Gilmer County.

Dec. 25. T. B. Kirby and Miss Ina Teem, both of Ellijay, are united in marriage at the parlor of the Central hotel, Ellijay. The couple then repaired to the Mountainview hotel, where a ball was in progress, and received hearty congratulations.

1887

Jan. 6. Benjamin Johnston, an owner of extensive lands about Ellijay, around Civil War days, dies at Willingham, Georgia.

Feb. 15. The arrival of a railroad has effected changes in Ellijay's mail deliveries. The route from Ellijay to Talking Rock Mills (near Blaine), in Pickens county, becomes semi-weekly, the one to Morganton is discontinued.

March 3. Dr. Charles M. Curtis of Fannin county, later of Ellijay, graduates at the Southern Medical college of Atlanta with distinction, receiving a gold medal for the best record in the practice of medicine. After his graduation he is appointed resident physician of Ivy Street hospital, Atlanta.

April 21. The sensational battle of Avery Bates and his father with officers attempting Avery's capture in the mountains far west of Blue Ridge occurs. Avery Bates incurs fatal injuries. Through many years that followed his widow bravely carried on with a family of surviving children, bringing them up to industry and sobriety.

April 28. Gold is discovered in Mountaintown district.

White Path post office is established, Mrs. W. F. Robertson, postmistress.

R. F. Pickens, E. W. Coleman, W. S. Coleman, T. J. Long, George W. Heath, Lemuel Tankersley, N. L. Osborn, William Ellington form a committee to promote the building of a new railroad from Augusta to Chattanooga via Gilmer County. The prospective road aroused much interest at the time but was never, of course, realized.

June 2. Gilmer has an organization known as the "Agricultural Club of Gilmer County." N. L. Osborn, president; J. F. Pettit, secretary. It enrolls many leading men in Ellijay as well as in the more strictly rural areas.

Sept. 29. Minter Mathis, one of the early settlers of Gilmer County, died last Saturday night, leaving a wide acquaintance and circle of connection. He is said to have been Gilmer's first blacksmith.

Sam W. Smith's death (reportedly suicidal), a mile north of Ellijay, shocks his neighborhood.

Oct. 13. "Gilmer County has two excellent carp ponds. Joe Clayton has a pond with about 1,000 fish in it, and the Pettit brothers of Cartecay have another with some 300 in it. There are thousands of coves and nooks in this section that are natural homes for both carp and numerous other species of food fish, and they should be used in fish culture."

Oct. 20. Only about a year after completion of the M & N G railroad taxable values of the County have risen half a million dollars, and trade has quadrupled.

Nov. 8. Knoxville, Tennessee, breaks dirt on a new railroad to connect at Blue Ridge, Georgia, with the M & N G into Gilmer.

Nov. 10. This autumn shows marked educational activity. Talking Rock school, nearby and under C. C. Haley, offers what were for the times advanced studies.

1888

July 18. Henry Tabor dies.

Aug. 9. J. B. Glover, superintendent of the M & N G railroad, employs a large force widening the guage and in other improvements of his line.

Nov. 11. James Ballew is drowned at Goble's Ferry on the Coosawattee river 14 miles southwest of Ellijay.

Nov. 28. J. H. Turner endeavors to form an alliance for farmers at Ellijay.

Dec. 6. Ellijay's lumber plant prepares to finish axe handles in quantity.

1889

Jan. 1. An eclipse of the sun, bordering totality, occurs late in the afternoon.

Jan. 2. A reception at W. R. Coleman's home at Ellijay, tendered his son, W. E. Coleman, and the son's bride proves one of Ellijay's most notable social events.

Jan. 3. M. E. Conference of Georgia meets at Ellijay.

Jan. 31. Frank Waters of Dawson county has been clerking in A. Bishop's store for some time.

Reminiscences of Mrs. Mike McKinney

The author interviewed this remarkable woman when she was 86 years old and looked much younger. She once lived at Ellijay. She was born in Fannin county three miles north of Chestnut Gap while this area was still in Gilmer. Her great-grandfather settled on Horseshoe Bend. Indians used to come to her father's home and spend the night, sleeping with their heads to the fire.

She and her husband left Chestnut Gap about the time the railroad was being built through Gilmer. She was probably living at Ellijay before trains reached there. In 1897 they moved to Blue Ridge, where Mr. McKinney was a merchant.

She probably had her busiest days at Chestnut Gap. During the Civil War she and her family tended a grist mill, ran a carder, a store and a post office. She supplied cotton chain, selling clear to Jack river. She carded wool or cotton at their carder, powered by the swift current of Fighting Town creek.

During the time spent there "we dealt in ginseng, golden seal, star grass, yellow root, lady slipper, pink root, sarsaparilla, rosin root, boneset.

"Sometimes," to continue her quote, "I could find somebody to care for my children. Then I could slip into the grist mill and do some grinding, using a toll dish that was used for 70 years. People brought bear cubs out of the mountains, and once we kept deer which we finally donated to Grant Park, in Atlanta.

"I made so many men's suits—this was extra work—I lost all count of the number. For making these suits (out of homespun) I got $2.50 each.

"We maintained a household as numerous as it was thrifty and energetic. Eleven of our children reached maturity. Eight of my children are yet alive. We had family reunions till 1925. My husband died four years ago.

"I went to schools near my childhood home. Mount Moriah was one of these. I learned penmanship by pine knots and candle light. I taught Bud Kellar to write in the sand. We raised Bud Kellar, Martha Berry and Salina Hice in addition to our own numerous progeny. I had three children in wars.

"My husband was interested in the practical promotion of railroad building until the last spike of the Knoxville Southern railroad was driven at Knoxville July 1890. Georgia awarded about 50 convicts to each county through which our railroad ran. William Ellington had charge of those in Gilmer county. Mike McKinney, my husband, had oversight of those in Fannin. General Phillips, Capt. J. B. Glover, and Joe McAfee undertook construction south of Gilmer toward Marietta.

"North Carolina was working toward Murphy.

"At one time the people along the routes of the proposed lines made a cash donation of $13,000 to assist the construction of the railroads. At another time there was no money to feed the convicts, and work on the railroads was suspended for four years. The convicts were hired to cut wood for the copper companies.

"In the construction of our railroad, no powder, dynamite or drills were used. The convicts and other laborers just heated rocks and then poured cold water on them, just flaking and chipping them away bit by bit. Cars had link and pin couplings.

"About the time the road was finished to Murphy it went into the hands of a receiver. After that it was operated by J. B. Glover. At one time the whole road

sold for less than a million dollars. But, for a time at least, it was saved by a man from the East who offered to complete building it for stock in the road."

Mrs. McKinney, according to press reports, died May 29, 1937, at Marietta at the age of 95. This would make her birth year 1842. Her husband seems to have lived until 1924.

A Reminiscence

By J. T. Deweese, once a citizen of Gilmer, told to the Author

"About 1889 Murphy, North Carolina, offered a premium if the branch line railroad from Blue Ridge, Ga., reached the city by a certain date. But if the road failed to get there on that date, it lost the bonus.

"We the people of the Murphy area chopped and hewed out crossties. I helped myself. It was an honor to do so. We blocked up the road any way to get the train through—and to the reward awaiting it.

"I was the only boy on Hanging Dog creek who owned a buggy in those days. I courted in this important vehicle, which was big hubbed and high wheeled and dodge spoked. I sat away high in that like a man.

"I rolled into Murphy early on the big day set for the train's arrival. We tied our multitudinous horses to trees all about. We prided ourselves on our horses. And my own was a good one. Then we assembled afoot on the south side of the Hiwassee river, to be the terminus of the railroad for years before the stream was bridged.

"There we waited till late in the afternoon. Finally the train approached through a cut, then bulged into full view. The warning whistle blew. Steam was hissing fearfully. The bell was ringing. Crossties began to jump up and down like giant Mexican jumping beans.

"As if struck by a burst of cannon fire, our horses broke their bridles and halters and went flying, another thundering herd, in any direction open or that could be forced open.

"Some of the people, instead of waiting to see if that thing exploded, plunged away too. I wasn't scared myself but my horse was! He bolted down Hiwassee river to the junction of Nottely river with it.

"A man named Stiles went with me down the river to find and herd horses. We found them at dusk—my horse and several others—crowded on a little tongue of land where the rivers run together."

1890

We note, during the summer of 1890, some of the numerous changes in city, county and business personnel. A. J. Hutchinson is mayor of Ellijay; L. M. Greer, Seaborn Hill, E. T. Foote, J. R. Johnson are councilmen; J. E. Fendley is marshall; Rev. J. N. Myers is pastor of the Methodist Church, South; Rev. E. B. Shope of the Baptist Church, with two preaching services a month. Rev. J. E. Tallant is pastor of the Methodist Church.

T. B. Kirby, J. P. Cobb Jr., J. E. Finley, R. L. Roberts, David Garren, S. P. Garren held official places in the Masonic lodge.

Ellijay has a Board of Commerce officered by John W. Duckett, president; A. T. Logan, vice-president; H. M. Ellington, recording secretary; T. H. Tabor, corresponding secretary; T. J. Long, treasurer. The officers are described as "all representative and pushing business men identified with the interests of the town."

The County has a fraternity it terms the Gilmer County Alliance. Gid Anderson is president. It is an organization mainly of farmers.

M. V. Teem operates the Central hotel.

Doctors are J. S. Tankersley, J. H. Johnson, E. W. Watkins. Attorneys are John P. Perry, J. C. Allen, E. W. Coleman, Thomas F. Greer, George W. Gates.

J. W. Duckett has a millpond at East Ellijay which is described as a charming spot for boating.

The political pot boils with Thad Pickett, S. A. Darnell and Thomas E. Winn talked for Congress.

The railroad still bears the name Marietta & North Georgia.

Tax values of Gilmer County have increased from $558,000 in 1887, to $709,000 in 1890, while the increase in land values has been fivefold.

For the following word picture of the Ellijay of 1890 we are indebted to H. M. Ellington, who became editor of the Ellijay Courier in May of that year.

"Approaching Ellijay northward by the M & N G Railroad, a summer visitor, looking to his left, sees first, perhaps, northward, the noble outlines of the Ellijay Seminary on its distant hill skirting a wide enchantment of intervening valley cut by the sinuous Coosawattee River.

"Then off to the left, on a nearby knoll, he will probably note the fine residence of Hon. J. P. Cobb and the fertile farm about it. While the proportions of the seminary enlarge, the beholder will notice, closer to him and nestling between the western edge of fields and the hills, the brick residence of Major W. R. Welch set among verdant gardens and orchard trees. Beyond it a massed dim whiteness discloses a cemetery already more than fifty years old. The clustered houses of Ellijay, still over half a mile away, now appear, east of the seminary, on lower ground and overlooked by the institution of learning.

"By this you may be crossing the Cartecay river by an iron bridge resting on piers of north Georgia marble. Immediately to the left begins the magnificent farm of J. I. Jarrett. To the right of the railroad spread and loom the collective buildings of the Evans Land and Lumber Company and, higher in the distance beyond, between green hills, grouped just south of the Cartecay river, the homes of East Ellijay."

This enterprise was rated at this time at a valuation of $350,000. J. C. Evans of Marsh Hill, Pennsylvania, a lumberman of wide experience, is president; W. E. Chase of Geneva, New York, vice president; C. E. Selover of Elmira, New York, treasurer; W. Young, secretary.

The mill is fitted with improved machines, turning out veneering and panel lumber. The plant is powered by a Hamilton-Corliss engine. It has dry kilns and planing mills. S. A. Seaman is superintendent; S. C. Moore, architect and builder. The main mill will employ 100 men.

At this point we resume the description of Ellijay, presented by Horace M. Ellington, as it might appear to a visitor approaching the community from the south.

"D. M. Hyatt's store, from the east, faces the railroad station, and nearby is the splendid residence and summer resort of Mr. J. I. Jarrett.

"Two competing hack lines meet the visitor at the railroad station. After a short, winding drive through a level, green-hordered lane, the visitor passes over the usually clear waters of the Ellijay river by a covered bridge, and is in town.

"Making a quick turn to the left, he is passing up River Street, lined on the left for quite a distance with elegant dwellings and tasteful cottages. On the

right is a fairly level open space comprising part of the grounds belonging to the A. Bishop estate, which, when cut up into building lots, will be one of the most desirable sections of this 'Farm City'.

"Drawing up at length in front of the already time-stained and weather-beaten old brick courthouse, directly in the center of the public square, he alights. He is now offered the hospitality and excellent accommodations of the Central Hotel and the Bagwell House on his right, and of the Mountain View and Frady House on the left.

"Just between this courthouse and the Mountain View Hotel once stood, within the memory of the writer, a giant oak under whose spreading branches the village loafers were won't to gather on the long hot afternoons of the midsummer to gossip, tell tales and smoke pipes.

"Under this same oak, in the pioneer days of 1834, stood a hardy minister, William Ellington, and preached the first sermon ever delivered in Ellijay.* His rugged band of hearers, still among the Indians, were trying to make homes for themselves in wilderness.

"After having dined at, let us say, the Central, on such viands as you never find outside of northern Georgia, the caller to our community passes up by the post office, the office and the drug store of Dr. J. R. Johnson, the Bagwell House and the elegant and commodious brick business house of A. Bishop, and, on the left, a barber shop.

"Turning directly northward, he passes, on Dalton Avenue, the business house and residence of J. W. Hipp, then the county jail, the business place and residence of T. J. Long, the home of Marshall Findley, Mrs. Kirby, W. A. Cox, and others.

"He comes to a substantial stone wall on his left. This encloses the spacious grounds and the neat residence of Sheriff M. L. Cox and Col. T. H. Tabor. On the left would be seen an area that gradually rises to a hill. This is a portion of Col. Tabor's Aspen Hill Farm, now being cut up into desirable building lots.

"Continuing northward, the visitor, by a sharp downgrade, approaches Mill Creek and the flour mills of M. L. Cox. Thence the road to the left passes into a beautiful, green-walled mountain gorge and loses itself in the tortuous windings of the stream.

"Returning to his original starting point at the court house, the visitor turns westward up, let us suggest, Broad Street, leaving the saddle and harness factory of Stansbury & Gates and the Ellijay Library on the corner. He passes the business and dwelling house of W. C. Allen, the dwelling and office of Dr. E. W. Watkins, the dwelling of postmaster L. M. Greer, Judge J. C. Allen, Col. J. P. Perry, Mr. W. J. R. Hyatt, Judge T. F. Greer, Dr. J. S. Tankersley, Mrs. Tommie Hipp, and others.

"Going up a steep incline beyond a left turn of Broad Street, he finds himself in front of the two-story brick Ellijay Seminary on an elevation affording a splendid view of Ellijay, environs and distant mountains. Standing on top of Seminary Hill, he sees not only the town but its possibilities for indefinite expansion. He may now note one of the most prominent of the structures toward the Ellijay River bridge—the building of E. W. Coleman, which contains the office of the local newspaper, the Ellijay Courier, now already completing its fifteenth year; also will be seen the Masonic Lodge building, one of Ellijay's most imposing structures, evincing the thrift and enterprise of this time-honored order in this County.

*Account should be taken that after 1819 white and Indian missionaries, deploying from Tal-lo-ney, often came and spoke.

"At the terminus of Lodge Street, going south from a point a little way down River Street from the court house, the visitor faces on his left the Methodist Church, South, lately completed and shepherded by Rev. J. N. Myres. Another conspicuous building of the town that the visitor would find would be the Baptist Church, corner of Church and Spring Streets, Pastor Rev. E. B. Shope. Likewise he would discover all the churches were provided with good organs, and, in addition, in homes, some twenty-one other organs, five pianos, not to mention a sprinkling of fiddles, banjos, guitars, harmonicas, jewsharps, and the like."

Besides the Evans Land & Lumber company, other business developments spoken of in 1890 were a prospective spoke factory and iron and further gold developments along with expansion of the timber industry.

September 8 (Monday) Knoxville, Tennessee, gave a complimentary excursion to merchants and editors of north Georgia and east Tennessee in celebration of rail connection with northern Georgia. For in the August preceding a railroad, branching off from the Marietta and North Georgia railroad at Blue Ridge, a few miles north of Gilmer County, had been completed to Knoxville.

1891

Osborn Holt (he preferred to call himself "Ausborn") dies at the age of 85 on January 21. Born Feb. 6, 1809, he came to Gilmer in 1835, experiencing among many other hardships the panics of 1837 and 1845, when good milk cows sold for 60 cents apiece.

He was among the first to learn gold had been mined, and more still could be found, at White Path. He saw his own land values rise from $1900 to $16000. His tax receipts show the utopian character (so far as taxation went) of his time. For the year 1838 he paid a tax of 55½ cents.

About the time of his death marble of three colors was reported as underlying his land in the Turniptown area. East of his home, a mile, iron was found. At least one of the great well-like pits, sunk by prospectors for it and other minerals, is there today.

As far back as Civil War days, such Gilmer iron was worked into horseshoe nails, gunbarrels and, perhaps, some farm tools and household articles.

Feb. 1. Pioneers reported to be still living were B. B. Quillian, Coke A. Ellington, Joseph Pickett, and William Banks.

Real estate profits in the spring were liberal, T. H. Tabor leading in sales.

Produce market prices were:

Apples 75c to $1 a bushel; Evaporated apples, 8 to 10c pound; Beans, mixed, 75c to $1 bushel; Corn, $1 bushel; Cabbage, 1½c pound; Beeswax, 18c pound; Feathers, 40c pound; Dried apples 6 to 7c a pound; Beans, white navy, $1.25 bu; Butter, 12½ to 15c pound; Meal, 80c bushel; Hens, 23 to 25c pound; Eggs, 10c dozen; Wool, 30 to 35c pound.

April 9. "East Ellijay is a flourishing little town, having a population of 150, one store, one school, a co-operative alliance store house; and, on foot, plans for a circular saw, planing and molding machine; one practicing physician and one silversmith. The little town has had only some six months to build up, and it is expected that within twelve months it will double its population."

The first house at East Ellijay is said to have been at the Mont Smith location. The occupant was Jim Walker, who later moved over the Cartecay river to a place where Lee McArthur once made his home. Walker was the father of Mrs. Harriet Frady, whose husband, Ben Frady, was a blacksmith of Ellijay.

During the Civil War the Spencers lived near the spot where Jack Williams, for many years preceding his death, had resided. John W. Duckett, using an "up and down" (or slash) saw, started the lumber business of East Ellijay.

April 30. George DeBoard, living three miles from Ellijay, plows up some half-crumbled bones. He concludes his discovery indicates an Indian skeleton and grave, at the head of which were three tin cups reduced almost entirely to rust. At the foot was an antique black bottle. Upon the breast of the skeleton lay several dozen crudely beaten ornaments of pure silver. And these consisted of a finger ring with a shield carved on it, an artistic pair of earbobs, a carved heart with a pin attached, besides several roundish ornaments of strange and perhaps symbolic design with pins also attached, an iron tomahawk and several glass and stone pots. The deceased appeared to have been a person of some note—perhaps warlike and convivial in nature. On the face of it, the deceased belonged to a late period of Indian history, for his tomb contained articles belonging to the white man's civilization.

Oct. 29. William Kimsey of Diamond pleads for the saving of the chestnut crop, which is largely going to waste. And this belongs to anybody energetic and thrifty enough to hie his way into the woods and gather it. Mr. Kimsey also states that chestnuts may be preserved by soaking them half a day in strong lye before they are spread out to dry. He endorses chestnut meal or the boiled nuts as "better for extreme debility than condensed milk or beef."

Nov. 19. Rev. M. W. Doggett, presbyterian minister, first of his denomination to preach in Ellijay in many years, is scheduled for an address there.

Nov. 26. Ellijay council passes an ordinance requiring property holders to plant shade trees.

John Mulkey and William Bailey have rented the entire mills and carding machinery of J. T. McHan on the Cartecay river five miles east of Ellijay.

The Evans Land and Lumber Company has a capital investment at Ellijay and elsewhere in the County of $350,000, and is enlarging.

Cigaret smoking is, by the press of the day, openly and forthrightly decried as a physical evil and a social scandal.

In November L. G. Edwards, A. T. Logan, Jim Findley open a new mercantile business in the place formerly occupied by A. Bishop.

Among the business houses and individuals scattered about the County who do extensive advertising may be mentioned:

M. V. Teem ..... Ellijay
J. M. and J. B. Bearden ..... Ellijay
J. R. Johnson ..... Ellijay
W. A. Allen ..... Cartecay
R. L. Smith ..... Roy
W. M. Simmons & Son ..... Talona

John Hunnicutt's tannery, established at Ellijay about 1875, is still flourishing.

Horace Ellington becomes poet laureate of the Georgia Weekly Press association.

Erection of a new county jail is decided upon.

1892

Ellijay installs street lamps, in celebration of which step Editor H. M. Ellington pens a poem.

"Twinkle, twinkle like a star,
How I wonder what you are;
Soliloquize the weary tramps
When they see our new street lamps.
Twinkle, twinkle through the night,
Ever watchful, shining light.
No more will the boys raise Cain,
No more billy goats be slain."

Mr. Ellington's reference to goats is doubtless due to the wanton slaughter, on the public square at Ellijay and under the protective darkness of previous nights, of "Sluder," a billy goat belonging to Dr. E. W. Watkins. Perpetrators of this deed were Theron Shope and J. R. Johnson.

April 21. Farmer Orr, pioneer, is critically ill.

May 19. Stephen Griffith's death in Alabama is noted. He was one of the founders of Ellijay.

June 30. Ellijay Lodge 78 I. O. O. F. completes a lodge room over L. L. Bishop's store.

Oct. 6. Duckett & Dunn operates a furniture factory in East Ellijay.

Nov. 6. Bailus M. Hipp, native of North Carolina, dies. He is survived by children, Frank, Lonzo, Laura.

Nov. 8. Cherry Log reported to be growing. A new and sizable railroad station, with a full-time agent, is planned by Captain Glover and Mike McKinney. This year Spencer Green becomes assistant postmaster and merchant there. Cherry Log was long Gilmer's second mail distributing center.

This still important community struck a low ebb about 40 years ago and dragged along for years. But within recent years it has given observers a big surprise with its growth. It is now a flourishing community. It has one of the four post offices remaining in Gilmer and distributes mail to portions of Fannin County.

Nov. 12 Ellijay is jubilant in celebrating the election of Grover Cleveland president.

Ensley Anderson recalls his one year of army service in which he helped remove the Indians from Gilmer County. He tells of an old Creek warrior named Crawfish, who was very indignant at his capture. While the captive Indians and their white guards camped on an island, the red folks had a "heap big dance," from which Chief Crawfish, his wife and their papoose escaped by swimming an arm of the Tennessee river.

Mr. Anderson also states the Cherokee Indians were far more intelligent, refined and cleanly than the Creeks.

The death of Ensley Anderson occurred on Aug. 31, 1893.

Dec. 18. The Teem hotel and mercantile stock of the same management, adjacent to it, burn, making a spectacular blaze and roar. And this was mixed with the din of gunpowder explosions, since loose gunpowder was a common stock in trade in stores of that day.

The roof of the courthouse nearby catches on fire. But Western Holt leads in heroic efforts at putting it out. Such acts of courage and quickness saved not only the courthouse but the records of Gilmer County from its founding.

1893

Jan. 16. W. W. Kimsey reports the cold weather as six degrees below zero.

Feb. 23. E. B. Shope, having sold his Gilmer possessions, plans to move away from Ellijay. But he apparently postponed his migration seven years.

Noah W. Pettit finishes the construction of a store and post office combination and, near it, a home at Santa Luca, in Boardtown district. The store long since vanished but the last of the residence is still crumbling away.

July 20. The Christian (still sometimes referred to as Campbellite) denomination stirs Boardtown and adds to its membership. The group builds a house of worship near the Jack Dodd home.

July 24. Gilmer has a Baptist minister, Nicholas Osborn, who is still preaching at the age of 87. His denomination meets for a conference of its preachers, the meeting lasting nearly a week. Attending were F. C. McConnel, J. E. Wynn, A. B. Vaughn, S. Y. Jameson, Henry McDonald, J. G. Gibson, all of whom were scheduled to appear on the program.

Edwards, Logan & Company develops into a progressive Ellijay merchandise establishment.

The Evans Land & Lumber Company is sold at a receiver's sale.

Joseph Pickett dies at his home on Town Creek. He was the father of Julius and Thad Pickett, and was one of Gilmer's Secession delegates.

The County is feeling the pinch of a "panic." Ginseng drops to $1.75 a bushel, dry; and tax values fall off $57,000 from 1892.

The Teem Hotel, burned Dec. 18, 1892, is rebuilt by late 1893 on its former site.

1894

J. L. Fowler is continued as presiding elder of the M. E. churches of Gilmer County. A conference of his church at Ellijay, Jan. 11, is presided over by Bishop William X. Ninde.

William Banks, pioneer, dies at 98, Jan. 19.

Feb. 24. Bitter cold, with heavy snows, prevails. The County from bound to bound freezes poker-stiff. A month later another blizzard slashes in. George Crump freezes to death.

May 17. Dave Jarrett brings the first reaper and binder into the County.

July 20. George Long drowns.

Sept. 4. Miles J. Plemmons of Tickanetley dies from the effects of a rye beard in his throat.

Efforts are being made to end toll-paying on the road across the Cohutta mountains and now known as the Henry Grady highway or simply Chatsworth Road.

Sept. 27. Talona Lime works advertises extensively, and is managed by B. T. Warlick. The plant is located at Lime (or White) Cliff on the edge of Pickens county. It finally came to be known as Whitestone.

Sunday, Sept. 30. Bob Piece, railroad station agent at Cherry Log, and Ulissus Aaron, in a shooting affray there, fatally wound each other.

Nov. 22. Ellijay's recently established cheese factory is in operation. On the 20th of the following December it was receiving 800 pounds of milk per day.

JAMES HENRY Worley S/O Henry dies

Officially, it was the Ellijay Creamery. But local folk preferred to call it a cheese factory. It stood in the corner of a field through which the highway eastward passes, on the left as one leaves the Logan bridge. It started off with milk supplied by cows imported from North Carolina.

Nov. 29. Ellijay records the rare event of buying two bales of cotton this season.

1895

Jan. 10. John Beckman of Illinois takes charge of the Creamery.

E. W. Coleman, who came to Ellijay in 1885, removes to Elberton. Mr. Coleman had been successful in the practice of law at Ellijay and very active in promoting Christian education.

Old jail on Dalton Street, Ellijay, is torn down. It stood where the Johnson-Ray Farm Equipment, 23 Dalton Street, is now located.

S. W. McCallie, state geologist, gives a glowing report on marble possibilities on Rock creek, near White Path, Turniptown, headwaters of Talona creek and at a point farther south and about a mile and a half south of Talona post office, and at Marble Bluff (now Whitestone).

Feb. 8-21. Gilmer County frozen in and snowed under to a depth of eight inches or more, with bitter weather conditions generally prevailing. Streams frozen over, schools are suspended. Reports of 13 below zero come in. Gatty Patterson's colt freezes. Other persons lose fowls, sheep. In a single hollow log in the Burleson mountains 17 hogs are found frozen.

Ben Whitaker picked starving quail up, as they were huddling under the upraised end of a log, put them in his overcoat pockets and carried them to his home and fed them. Even next summer hollow stumps, logs and other chance hiding places were piled with the bleached bones of birds and animals that died during what was generally thought to be the coldest month in our history.
April 4.

Cartecay boasts a hotel, a post office, a blacksmith shop, a livery stable, a doctor, and also anticipates a store soon to be opened by Andrew West & Co., a cheese factory, and beef market.

Pike post office is established with Dave Hogan postmaster.

"Mountaintown now has a shoe shop run by J. S. and Mack G. Everett."

Mack G. Everett, later a blacksmith for Fulton County, related that J. S. Everett was his uncle. This shop made shoes rather than repaired them.

All the work of manufacturing was done by hand in a two-story wooden structure. The labor was arduous, humping the back and stiffening the neck.

Their location was eight miles northwest of Ellijay on Little Mountaintown Creek, not far from Zion Hill Church. Nearby chestnut-oak bark, from Douglas Mountain, was used in the tanning of the hides required. Leather was tanned for shoe soles and uppers, harness and saddles.

Vats were part of the equipment. Some of these were lime, some tan, vats. All were water tight. Also, a bark mill was a necessity. The sweep of this was drawn round in a circle by mule power. A man, as he fed the mill, slashed bark over the edge of the mill hopper so as to make it feed into the rollers that crushed it.

Raw hides were first soaked in plain water, then "fleshed," next, the hair was removed by a ten-day bath, with lime. Later the lime was soaked out of

them. Then the hides were placed in tanbark ooze for some six weeks; and, after that, hung up to dry. It was now "rough leather." For shoemaking, an oily preparation called dubbin was applied by the Everetts and their help. The leather was then "shaved," once more hung up. It was now ready for use. Only calf skins (called kip) were used for shoes.

April 25. G. H. McGuire, Ellijay jeweler, invents a clock suitable for the use of railroads.

The idea of supplying water to Ellijay, along with a plan for generating a supply of electricity for its use, is advanced more than 30 years before its realization—and almost as it was carried out in the late 1920s.

Work is progressing on Shippen Brothers lumber and planing mills near the Ellijay railroad station.

May 23. Licklog post office is established. This quaint name came from a pioneer custom of salting range cattle in a small hollow mortised out in the top of a log.

July 18. Ellijay revives a baseball club.

Aug. 8. Captain John D. Howell, native of Warsaw, Indiana, once a mining engineer at Dahlonega gold mines (where he was said to have directed diverting the channel of the Chestatee river), is reported as gravely ill and sinking at his home at Cherry Log. He died soon after.

Captain Howell is credited with getting his title from an army rank during the Civil War, but whether he was on the Northern side or Southern side is not known. Those who depend solely on memory, however, believe it was Union.

Aug. 10. The following young women successfully stand an examination at Ellijay to enter Georgia Normal and Industrial college at Milledgeville: Clara Craigo, May Evans, Nellie Evans, Maggie Welch, who stood highest. The others ranked in the order given.

Oct. 14. A new road is opened to the northeast from Ellijay. It passes through the Simmons farm, thence across the Ellijay river by a high bridge built by J. C. and J. R. Kincaid. From the river, it passes through another farm, that of T. W. Craigo. From there it passes, by wooded ridges, to a point on the old Sixty One road that followed, in its day, down near the railroad right of way, went under both Sixty One railroad trestles, then crossed the tracks and came round a steep hillside and entered Ellijay by a route along the Ellijay river to the old bridge into town.

A. M. Johnson, as county ordinary, directed this progressive step. It was long known as the "new cut" road. This route, except for a cutoff that includes the old bridge, followed the modern road to the northeast.

This proved to be a year of abundant harvests of apples and other fruits.

1896

Cornelius Goble, W. K. Griffith, Milton Blalock die, the last at the age of 103.

Ruff post office is changed to Seaton. Hensley post office is discontinued.

Jan. 30. Twenty-six widows of Confederate veterans are drawing Confederate pensions: Minerva Corbin, E. C. Critchfield, Martha Rackley, Elizabeth Wheeler, Ann Pence, Elizabeth Banks, Mary Hudson, Barthaba Thrasher, Emily Whitener, Adaline Holt, Parmelia Wright, Mary Sawyer, Laura Carter, Elizabeth Dupree, Mary Simmons, Ellender Sutton, Sarah Ayers, Matilda Barnes, Louisa Loudermilk, Mary Logan, Sarah Evans, Rachel Bishop, Sarah Key, Fannie Davis. Susan Baugh.

On this date 21 ex-Confederate soldiers are drawing pensions, and are listed: E. H. Moore, J. W. Rackley, A. J. Fore, M. L. Pritchett, L. D. Spivey, Joseph Call, F. V. Teem, David Fowler, J. L. Dale, Nathan Low, P. H. Milton, L. D. Rogers, George H. Deborde, I. N. Walker, B. A. Logan, R. G. Long, T. W. Bailey, H. E. Weaver, W. T. C. Quillian, Dillan Dover, James Higgins, Y. T. Jones, A. Ingle, R. M. Whitner, W. H. T. Sawyer, Pink Davis, A. J. Cornett, T. J. Long, Sam C. Cantrell, and nine others, names not given, are mentioned as "deserving financial aid."

Feb. 2. A new public road is completed over Corbin Hill just west of Ellijay.

The M. E. Church South completes a parsonage.

Roebuck post office is established.

T. H. Tabor perfects and patents a washing compound.

April 5. Levi M. Greer dies at Ellijay. He was once clerk of the superior court; and, under President Harrison, was postmaster of Ellijay. He was a son of Moses Greer, first ordinary of Gilmer County. L. B. Greer, long of the internal revenue service, John and Frank were sons of Levi M., and Mrs. Frank Waters was a daughter.

May 21. Tails Creek, led by Pose Wells, starts a list of voters pledged not to vote for any candidate for office who treats on whiskey.

Friday, May 2. Some 75 Gilmer people join a great crowd at Blue Ridge to hear the famous preacher, Sam P. Jones, speak on Proverbs 11:19.

June 18. F. C. Baird ships gold ore to St. Louis.

Billy (W. C.) Allen dies. There were two Allens with these initials. For another W. C. Allen is recorded to have died Oct. 31, 1919.

July 16. The M & N G railroad again hits financial straits. J. B. Glover and E. C. Spalding become receivers for it and appoint Joseph McWilliams its superintendent.

July 23. Eugene C. Spalding and J. B. Glover agree to operate the line jointly under the receivership.

Aug. 13. A new marble shop, operated by Nelson Brothers, opens in Ellijay.

Mon., Oct. 5. Numerous Gilmer folk report having gone to Blue Ridge to hear Thomas E. Watson speak. They found the speaker had a sore throat and was obliged to speak in low tones. But he revealed much of his usual force, and fireworks.

Nov. 2. The M & N G railroad changes its name to Atlanta, Knoxville and Northern, and its management is taken by Joseph McWilliams, general manager; C. B. Locks, master of trains. This year the railroad is said, also, to have changed from narrow to broad guage tracks, a step long anticipated and vital in its plans.

Nov. 5. Gilmer goes for William J. Bryan for president by 203 votes.

Nov. 12. The news of the election of William McKinley president is celebrated with great gusto. On Wednesday night, presumably the evening following election night, his friends and partisans celebrate by fireing anvils, forming torchlight and horseback processions, and intermingling it all with a deal of spirited yelling. Even the remote ruralite heard the heavy if somewhat desultory boom roaring over hill and valley. Horace M. Ellington, in Ellijay, saturates his tall silk hat with kerosene and burns it on the public square amid the lusty cheers of onlookers.

Nov. 17. Eugene Mayne, who has been taking extensive options on gold lands, leaves for London.

Nov. 20. The A K & N railroad attempts to fence its right of way through Gilmer.

1897

A. W. West recalls that, at this period, wooden buildings almost (if not entirely) surrounded the square at Ellijay. A. Bishop's store, now the Ellijay Hardware and Furniture Company building was already there. Where the Starnes Drug store is now, Bagnell's boarding house stood. It was an eight-room structure. And the old Mountainview hotel occupied the site of the present Chevrolet automobile company. The last of such old wooden structures has now been replaced. Then the town's stores were few—M. V. Teem's, A. Bishop's and perhaps DeJournette's and one or two others.

Jan. 7. Ellijay's $5,200 creamery is bid in by P. H. Milton for $966.25.

Marvin Dobbs, a 17 year-old son of Rev. W. S. Dobbs, while on a turkey hunt, is shot, and later dies.

Jan. 14. Nearly five years after the establishment of an express office at Talona, B. L. Hensley, agent, the office is discontinued.

Jan. 20. Frank Rook buys sheep in Gilmer. The flocks, with their accompanying herdsmen (the sheep afoot), sometimes riding horses, made a picturesque procession by rural schools. When a sheep strayed, it could usually be headed back with a single stone thrown so as to strike the undergrowth just in front of the sheep. Sheep often had a reddish dye rubbed on the back of their necks for identification.

Rook gathered sheep for years in Gilmer. Frank Ledford was among his useful assistants. Mr. Ledford said Rook sent his sheep into the blue grass regions of Kentucky to be fattened there. Predatory dogs and closed ranges have drastically reduced sheep raising in Gilmer. But no farther back than the spring of 1961 we saw some fine sheep grazing in Towncreek district, under fence, of course.

Jan. 28. Elias M. Clayton, born in 1822, dies. He came to Gilmer while the Indians were still here.

June 1. Confederate Veterans, Camp Number 969, U. C. V., meets in the courthouse at Ellijay and organizes with a membership of 57. Officers elected were: Thomas F. Greer, commander; G. H. Randell, 1st lieutenant; L. H. Sharp, 2nd lieutenant; H. I. Smith, 3rd lieutenant; William DeJournette, adjutant; T. J. Long, quartermaster; Dr. E. W. Watkins, surgeon; N. L. Osborn, chaplain.

Delegates elected to attend the Nashville reunion next June are N. L. Osborn, E. W. Watkins, A. M. Vick, P. H. Milton, with alternates, William DeJournette, A. J. Cole, G. H. Randell, H. I. Smith, W. H. Foster.

After organizing, the body unanimously passed the resolution: Resolved, That we tender our services to Cuba, and that we inform them we are ready.

June 17. T. H. Tabor, in a rousing article on erecting a new public school building for Ellijay, presents a concrete plan in detail.

June 24. Will Wallace is burning bricks at Ellijay and red brick walls are going up.

July 1. At Ellijay, Teem & Company is completing a large two-story brick store on the square. D. M. Hyatt has several hands clearing the site of a proposed brick hotel to contain 42 rooms and to stand at the southwest corner of the same square. Martin Teem has a new dwelling completed and Steve Nelson, the marble dealer, is erecting a neat cottage on Seminary Hill.

Aug. 4. Among Gilmer teachers, the name of Roscoe Allen is modestly listed, and his home given as Dyke. He was scheduled to teach at Ebenezer. This distinguished citizen is mentioned elsewhere.

Aug. 12. A new post office, called Verdelle, is established.

Sept. 9. A Sam Jones tent revival at Canton is drawing many Gilmer people, a special train being operated partly for their accommodation.

"Bol" (Simon Bolivar) May, uncle to Owen May, known to later generations, dies at White Path; an old miner, full of yarns, sprightly, with a rich sense of fun, he was known and enjoyed for his Baron Munchausen type of tales.

A series of religious meetings, conducted in a tent by J. L. Tillman, effect some 50 conversions and reclamations.

Nov. 25. More than 5,000 bushels of field peas, of which the clay and speckled were the commonest varieties, have already been marketed at Ellijay this season. The peas were sometimes eaten but were esteemed widely as a soil builder.

S. Estes Johnston leases the Ducktown Gazette, and will take charge December 1. On November 30 Mr. Johnston and Homer Mulkey leave Ellijay to assume the publication of the Gazette.

Dec. 16. Shippen Brothers prominently advertise their lumber business at Ellijay, offering heart yellow pine shingles, dressed yellow pine flooring, ceiling and weatherboarding for sale. They wish, also, to buy poplar and yellow pine logs.

Will Shippen and his family arrive at Hotel Hyatt and plan to reside, after Jan. 1, 1898, at Ellijay.

Dec. 23. Shippen Brothers are receiving considerable sawmill machinery for installation at Ellijay.

1898

March 10. Ellijay is resurveyed so as to stop, on the north, at a branch just short of S. C. Cantrell's; to take in John W. Holt's dwelling and barn and Henry Smith's home; and, on the east, so as to include J. W. Duckett, the small water mills, and, across the Cartecay river, the larger part of J. T. McHan's store; on the south, the farm house of Dr. E. W. Watkins and nearly all his farm; on the west, the hills beyond the first mile post.

The expansion of the city's limits seems to have extended three quarters of a mile beyond previous bounds.

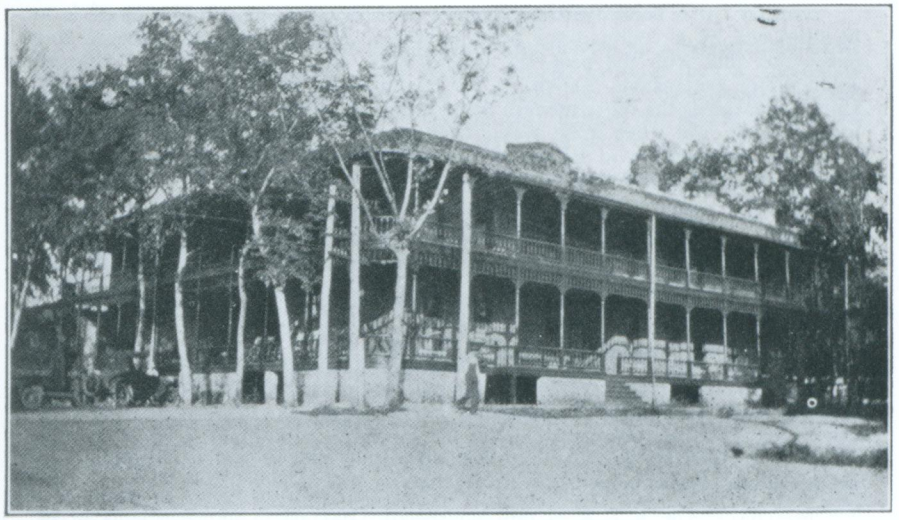
Cherry Log community loses its railroad station agent and becomes a flag stop.

April 4. Benjamin R. Frady dies. He was born July 31, 1827. Twice married, his first wife was named Searcey; his second, Harriet Walker. He was the father of Ed. Frady, former resident of Ellijay. A blacksmith, Benjamin R. Frady is described by contemporaries as "liberal in character and public enterprise."

The sons of Confederate veterans organize under the name, Camp Fitzhugh Lee, A. E. Sharp, commander.

June 19. A K & N starts two trains daily each way.

The Southern Express Company is stringing, on Western Union poles, its own telegraph wires through the County.



HOTEL HYATT, ELLIJAY

The fine summer climate, scenery and mineral and other delicious waters of Gilmer early encouraged hotel building. Mrs. J. M. Dorn, in the 1890's, said so many inquiries were coming in for quarters at her hotel in White Path that her profits in the business were all going for postage stamps.

June 23. D. M. Hyatt opens at Ellijay his $10,000 pressed brick hotel, which offers accommodations for 100 guests. The builder, D. J. Davenport, was for many years after a resident of Atlanta.

July 25. The toll road westward into Murray county (later traced part of the way by the modern Henry Grady highway) abandons its ancient custom of charging travelers who use it. Hereafter the old county-line gate will stand wide open for everyone free of charge.

Aug. 31. Three deaths are noted: those of Mrs. Jackson Ayers, Mrs. M. C. Briant, and Mrs. Tom Ellison.

1899

Jan. 24.

John W. Duckett (born Oct. 25, 1840), Union veteran, dies. He had a genius for building and engineering. His sons, Joe, Tom, and John, likewise had gifts in mechanical construction. A girl was named Minnie. He was twice married. The first wife, Martha M. (born April 5, 1833), died Feb. 28, 1885. His second was Lettie J. (Jan. 1855-Feb. 2, 1916).

Jan. 26. "It is being rumored that the historic old Mountainview Hotel is to be displaced by a commodious brick structure. This antique old building is a connecting link with the past. Its ancient stone chimney is stout and huge to colonial-day proportions. Down in the basement is the old kitchen fireplace, almost as large as the more modern hotel bedroom. Gazing into its depths wakens memories of days when great wood fires roared and the cook pots boiled for such men as Judge David Erwin, Joseph E. Brown. Alexander H. Stephens, and others that have lent luster to Georgia history."

Feb. 13. The lowest temperature ever officially recorded in this part of Georgia is the intense cold of 12 below zero reported from Diamond district. People on the upper Ellijay river needed no bridges across that stream. They just walked over on the ice. A howling, cutting north wind blew down Boardtown valley. It was so severe the traveler was lucky to last long enough in it to get out of it alive.

Near this date a cyclone sweeps Boardtown, wrecking residences of A. W. Brown and O. N. Fain and unroofing the home of J. B. Kincaid. There was more damage in Cherry Log district, farther east. The Ellijay river and its tributaries are enormously swollen by the torrential rains that accompanied the storm. A horrible din and roar also accompanied it. More damage is incurred at Ellijay, where lightning strikes twice.

March 23. The A K & N railroad spends $100,000 in improvements of its line. It has purchased a steam shovel and will put on two extra work trains to level the roadbed and reballast it, straighten curves, and make other improvements.

E. DeJournette makes the wise suggestion that River Street, Ellijay, be continued eastward along the north side of the Ellijay river to a point where the stream offered an improved advantage for a bridge. More than 40 years later his idea materialized in the present Logan bridge.

John P. Cobb dies at Bluff Dale, Texas. He was born in 1827, and removed to Texas in 1891. He was the father of twelve children. He formerly lived at the Neal Gentry place a mile south of Ellijay. The site of his home was near the location of the poultry processing plant. The new river bridge near the hosiery mill is named in his honor. He was a Mason and Baptist. He was buried in Texas.

March 30. D. T. Jarrett successfully cultivates upland rice in Gilmer County.

April 13. Shippen families come to Ellijay and further develop the Shippen Brothers Lumber Company.

"Mrs. W. H. Shippen, recently removed to Ellijay, is a hostess of much charm, and an artist and musician of recognized ability. A native of Cincinnati, honor graduate of Wesleyan college, gifted in music, art, literature. She was founder, in 1909, and first president of the Ellijay chapter of the Woman's Club and Daughters of the American Revolution." She was a member of the Methodist church. Her maiden name was Brown. She died Nov. 30, 1911. She left five daughters and one son, and was survived, also, by her husband.

April 20. J. C. Evans and Sons of Ellijay is buying and shipping locust telephone poles, 50 to 100 feet long, crossties, tan bark, the unloading of logs requiring new side tracking on the railroad. Ellijay also records one confectionary, four millinery, ten general, three drug stores.

April 27. The A K & N railroad puts on three new freight engines.

May 2. Captain Flinn of Minnesota purposes to renew operations at the old Lucky 8 gold mine, said to have already produced $5,000,000 worth of gold. (The amount is probably much exaggerated.)

May 25. Ellijay manufactures a sanitary poultry coop.

June 1. T. H. Tabor experiments with strawberries as a commercial possibility. This excellent crop has never been developed to more than a fraction of what it should be, many people having depended, for all the strawberries they enjoy, upon the delicious wild crop that quickly springs up in old fallow and abandoned fields of moderate fertility and sufficient slant.

June 15. Ellijay finds new diversion in the graphophone, and holds an ice cream festival.

June 22. Clem Brooker creates a sensation by pulling 3,500 feet of lumber into Ellijay with a steam engine.

July 4. S. A. Darnell delivers a stirring address, of a patriotic character, at Ellijay.

Aug. 3. The Hotel Hyatt at Ellijay introduces acetylene lights.

Aug. 10. George Bearden of Cartecay exploits his patent corn sheller.

Postmaster Larkin E. Bishop places mail boxes about the streets of Ellijay.

Aug. 17. The tax digest of Gilmer County shows an increase of $36,000.

Aug. 23. Death of W. T. C. (Colquitt) Quillian is noted. He was born July 26, 1828. During the Civil War he served in Company A, 65th Georgia regiment of the Confederate army. His children, as recalled by older relatives, were Narcis, Maggie, Bertie, Frank, Western, Charley.

Aug. 24. Editor George W. Gates of the Courier-Sentinel pays a fine tribute to his mother, Sarah Brooks Gates, who died in Mountaintown district August 17.

Aug. 31. Many residents of Ellijay do not bother to remember the names of the various streets of their home town. These are some of the anciently applied names, a few being still retained.

River Street runs from the public square eastward to the Ellijay river; Blue Ridge Avenue, also known as Dodge Street, runs north by the elementary school. It is said to have been originally called Dodge as a joke because debtors were accused of sometimes using it as a side entry and exit during trips to town, thus dodging round and skirting the main business district to avoid creditors.

Gilmer Street, in front of the Perry home (this also been called Broad); Lodge Street, passing north and south in front of the M. E. church; Cartersville, leading south from the public square, so called because it is the old stage road, now a modern highway toward Atlanta; Dalton, the beginning of the old Dalton stage route, often referred to as the old turnpike road, running in front of the Waters Brothers store. At the northern edge of town it turns northwest and becomes the Henry Grady highway, or Chatsworth Road. Spring Street is the last approximately east and west street toward Ellijay cemetery. Anciently it led up to the Pump Springs, now out of favor and use.

Hereafter the city council or mayor of Ellijay, when a new street is opened, might profitably receive nominations for an appropriate name for it.

Sept. 5. Dow Grace, once divorced from a woman remembered merely as "Becky," and bereft of another wife by death, marries a widow, Mrs. Jane Craig, at Ellijay.

Sept. 26. Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thompson Tabor of Cartecay celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and recount much interesting family history. If all Gilmer families kept as complete family records, Gilmer County history would be vastly richer.

Oct. 10. F. C. Tate and A. S. Clay unite with local speakers to voice their enthusiasm at an educational rally at Ellijay.

Oct. 28. Yates post office is established.

Nov. 2. Dr. J. E. Anderson of Ponder, Missouri, marries Magnolia West. Both are natives of Gilmer.

Nov. 9. James Mitchell dies at 98.

Nov. 30. Shippen Brothers Lumber Company is operating both day and night.

Yukon post office, Hiram Wright postmaster, is established near the Pickens county border.

1900

Jan. 18. A K & N railroad is prospering.

Jan. 25. M. S. Clayton assists J. W. Clayton in the sale and distribution of the latter's Royal Home Washer, operating from 170 Nelson Street, Atlanta.

March 22. The A K & N railroad announces a plan to replace all its wooden bridges with steel ones.

April 19. W. I. Stone invites Grand Army men to a meeting of Post No. 6, Jasper.

May 28 (Monday). A fine clear day brings an almost total eclipse of the sun. The belt of totality was about 100 miles south of us.

Sept. 12. Mrs. J. G. Brendel, wife of a Baptist missionary to the Indians, and his helper in mission work, dies at Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Her husband, usually referred to as Green Brendel, was once a well known minister and figure in religious affairs in Gilmer County. He went to the "Indian Territory" in 1890.

Sept. 13. The Gilmer County Singing convention is to meet the second Sunday in October with Clear Creek Baptist church.

Cornelius Sluder, an excellent young man of Cashes Valley, dies of an accidental gunshot wound.

Nov. 8 William J. Bryan carries Gilmer County over William McKinley by a majority of nine.

Nov. 10. Gilmer's population rises to 10,198, which is an increase of 1,124 over its 9,074 of 1890. The school population is listed as 1,693. This must refer to average school attendance, as a bona fide survey of the population should show at least a thousand more than this of student age.

Dr. W. L. Harper, a native of Gilmer, died this year in the state of Arkansas.

Summary, Recollections

The last quarter of the nineteenth century has always appeared to the writer as having been too scantily treated by historians. It recounts a determined climb from the prostrations of the Civil War, with attention to some serious lapses in our progress upward.

Much of the record we have drawn from old newspaper files, court memoranda, and the reminiscences of men like John M. Parks, J. C. Allen, William Ellington, Dr. R. H. Robb, and the author's father, Albert G. Ward. Still younger persons have contributed point and humor, and all ages have made our philosophic mood richer.

The 1875 generation descended, in the main, from immigrants. The old first generation was well represented but was giving way to "native" sons and

daughters, persons who knew only Gilmer County but lived after the customs and habits of life adopted from the first generation.

And though quite a percentage of our folk did not feel well enough satisfied with Gilmer to stay in it after they got here, preferring to push on, usually westward, none of whom we have knowledge, ever went back to the various parts of the world from which they came. "Not one went back in the Mayflower."

The County, in population, had been at the saturation point for about 20 years, and remained so till beyond the turn of the present century. In 1906 we had a population of more than 10,000. Shortly after, the count of inhabitants began to fall off. Then it climbed again. During the last dozen years it has fallen once more.

In 1875 the site of the present courthouse was occupied by a big old frame house set on wooden pillars.

In this period only the exceptional few began to get out of their primitive log cabins into frame and rare brick structures. Practically all rural homes were unpainted. All brick houses were in or near Ellijay, and these were constructed of brick of native clay.

Flowers and shrubs were of small variety and poor quality compared with the present. Timber was still being butchered recklessly. The old order of homespun clothes, homemade shoes, hats and shirts had not been replaced in rural areas by strictly store goods. Such displacement was not practically complete till the close of the first quarter of the present century. One sees no more in town or country those men, as the old timer saw, going round in their brown jeans suits of 1900 or earlier.

Old time folk dances, usually discouraged by the churches, especially in rural sections, continued. Church members attending them were often excluded from their congregation. At present the wholesome old square dances of the ruralside have yielded to the more sophisticated imported dance. We hear no more of country dances except, perhaps, as organized recreation. Ball games were not the popular and largely attended affairs of later years.

Illicit liquoring existed. But distilleries were sometimes seen by the roadside. These were registered and sometimes referred to as "government" distilleries. These usually made brandy. However, the large number of violators of liquor laws reported by the government show, on the other hand, the individuality and the determination on the part of a large segment of the County's citizenship to maintain a reasonable degree of temperance.

A church song book of the old days was known as "The Gem." The old sol fa songs were in use in Baptist churches. During the late 1890s and early 1900s the small cheap song books, in frequent editions, began displacing the old order of church music. Country churches frequently had Saturday meetings. Old-time funerals were longer, revival meetings noisier.

The White Caps (said to have been predecessors of the Ku Klux Klan but not identical with that group) were suppressed in this period.

Occupations were still herding, farming crops of corn, wheat, rye, and garden vegetables. Purchases at stores were still largely by barter. A man would sometimes swap eggs or chickens for store needs in order to hold onto his cash. Chestnuts were gathered from remote woods and usually brought a fair price. Timber cutting, given much impetus from the middle 1880s by the coming of a railroad, had its importance. And the place of mining has been mentioned in a number of places in this volume.

A few brick of fair quality were made around Ellijay. Carpentering was an occupation but the use of such builders was in restricted demand because men

could not afford their services. For the modern younger man has nothing but part of the 1930s to remind him of the chronic money shortage of much of the period we are considering. The man who wanted a house built it usually himself or got his neighbors to help him at a "house raising." Bees supplied much of the sugar needs. Coffee was mostly green. Roasted at home, the coffee was ground there. Most of the sugar was brown if one were lucky enough to have that.

Cattle, sheep, hogs, and even horses and mules were nearly all scrubby and wandered largely on the free range till the first quarter of this century, roaming in the most mountainous sections to a small extent even after the County went "stock law." The government is gradually acquiring and controlling our most mountainous areas.

Few entered the professions. Still fewer earned by music and other forms of art. Preachers were frequently illiterate or nearly so.

Owners of extensive lands were John and Ed Watkins. J. P. Cobb also owned a store and fine land. Jesse Jarrett also had valuable land. He had sons named Dave and Hicks.

Tom and Levi Greer were prominent men. Levi's wife was a sister to Coke Ellington.

There were four of the Coxes—two boys and two girls—as elsewhere recorded.

Mrs. E. S. Perry kept a boarding place which had an excellent reputation, and was especially popular with lawyers and other discriminating patronage.

Major W. R. Welch owned good property about Ellijay and ran a store.

Sam Smith lived on the way up to Boardtown. There were seven brothers of the Smith family. Joe and Nat were two of these. A sister married John Holt. The Smiths were among the first traders to make money on cattle. Winslow Smith of lower Turniptown married Emma Richardson. Sam was a Baptist, though the Smiths generally were Methodists.

William Nelson was an old shoemaker and mender of those days in Ellijay. He was a devout man and a power in religious life. His daughter, Hester Ann, married Jess Hyatt. Four or five sons and a daughter or two were born to Nelson and his wife.

Harve Triplett, a minister, son of William Triplett, was already well known at the opening of this period. Born in 1850, he began as a Baptist minister. Then he got in touch with the persuasive personality of James L. Fowler and became a Methodist. He died in Atlanta near the age of eighty. His father, born in Wilkes county, North Carolina, 1789, died in Gilmer County, July 23, 1885, in his 97th year.

Mark Mears, fiddler, was well known, especially about Ellijay. He was a brother to Mrs. Dave Dillingham.

Alfred Bishop came to town from a little way up on the present Chatsworth highway, later his place of residence became known as the Foote place. He was a fine, energetic and successful merchant. He had sons, Fate, Alfred Jr., Ed and Robb. In a case or two, the boys did not measure up to their father, according to Dr. Robb.

David Sorrels (he and his wife were tailors) lived, for a part of this time, on Flat mountain.

David Garren was postmaster at Ellijay (1875-1881), but lived some three miles northwest of town at the present Bill Wingate home location. He married a sister of Pink Milton.

John Milton was in the Ellijay seminary in 1885-86. He was a prodigy in Mathematics.

Daniel Black lived in Cartecay community. He was a very religious man. A daughter married Mitch Johnson. Mr. Johnson sent two of his daughters, Delia and Sarah, to the M. E. college at Athens, Tennessee, which institution co-operated closely with Ellijay seminary.

Gazaway Page of Cartecay had two daughters, one of whom married John Dunn, the other Wesley Ballew. Mr. Page's sons-in-law were preachers.

An excellent family by the name of Edwards lived in the Scrougetown community. Old lady Edwards was a saintly spirit. Her son William married a daughter of old Johnny Ballew. Mrs. Frederic Ward was a member of this family.

Pettits—also of Cartecay—were fairly numerous, John Lisha, George; Henry, whose home was in Cherry Log district.

Old Johnny Dunn, who lived near a great spring in Scrougetown, used to own Copper Hill. This spring long went by the name of the "Johnny Dunn spring."

George Watkins, son of Abner Watkins of Cherry Log district, was expanding his land holdings in Boardtown district into one of the County's large estates, much fertile land being included.

George Gates seems to have lived about Flat Branch neighborhood. Although for years he was handicapped with what the neighbors called "white swelling" and lameness, he kept energetically at matters of business, including a daily round trip to Ellijay. His brother Frank became a physician, residing until his death a few years ago in Cleveland, Tennessee.

Horace Ellington was a student in the Ellijay seminary, 1885-86. L. D. (Lew—named for an uncle) Ellington lived in a small house in Ellijay in 1875. He, too, was a minister of the M. E. church. In the fall of 1878 Mr. Ellington lived "on Owltown." He was presiding elder of the Dalton district, to which position he had been appointed by the M. E. church, for a period of four years, in the fall of 1876.

Early in 1880 Rev. B. M. Hipp moved from Mountaintown to Ellijay. Hipp was a hustler and a man capable in a business deal. Dr. R. H. Robb, upon his penetration of Gilmer County for the first time, July 1875, spent his first night with this man Hipp, in Mountaintown. In 1876 B. M. Hipp went to serve as pastor of the Jasper circuit of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Some members of the Osborn family were also in the Ellijay seminary. A number of the boys later went West.

Sons of Pink Milton, Bob and Bill, were likewise Seminary students.

The Teem family was represented in Ellijay by Martin I, who came to town from the Clear Creek neighborhood. He ran a hotel during the early years of this century, which business venture was heavily damaged by fires as elsewhere recorded.

Mr. Teem had two step-sons, who became important figures in the period under consideration. They were twin brothers, Joe Brown and James Bearden, both of whom became physicians. They were natives of the eastern part of the County, where members of their sturdy family have lived for more than 120 years.

One of the notable students of the Ellijay seminary was Wesley Ashe, a native of Fannin county. He once taught school at Noontootley, in his home county. Later he studied medicine at the University of Chattanooga, and was for 30 years a medical missionary to India. Although he is long since deceased, his widow survived him by many years, making her home in Delaware, Ohio.

Barnett Wilson was one of the foremost citizens of Cartecay. He owned the farm known later as the Will McHan place. In fact, he sold the farm to the McHan family. Having moved to Jasper, on his way West, he decided to come back to Ellijay. He at length lost his fortune. Mr. Wilson was a prominent Methodist layman. While he resided at Ellijay, he lived well. His wife was a daughter of B. B. Quillian.

Dean W. Chase came to Murray county from Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He married a southern woman. He struggled along over in Murray. He finally inherited a fortune and, about 1870, moved to Gilmer County. He bought the Swann mills on the Cartecay river some six miles east of Ellijay. He was a Methodist leader and had a son, T. G., who became a Methodist minister. Dean W. himself "exhorted" in religious assemblies. He spent liberally on the operation of a combination grist (corn), wheat, saw, threshing and ginning mill.

Of the Warlick family, two were preachers, Jesse and a brother, John. The father lived four miles south of Ellijay.

Frank Davis lived outside of Ellijay on the road to Jasper. He, Jesse Charles and J. W. Bramlett (father of Milt) all married sisters.

W. F. (Bud) Slagle was a prominent citizen of Cartecay. His mother was Priscilla Ann Quillian, daughter of Rev. B. B. Quillian. He was educated at Oakland. His wife was Ella Haley, daughter of Thomas Haley, a prominent religious leader of Pickens county. Slagle later entered business at Ludville, becoming successful in both farming and merchandising.

The last few of the 1880s saw rather rapid changes in Ellijay and Gilmer County as a whole. This stimulation was largely from the completion of the railroad throughout the length of the County.

The Ellijay town council consisted of M. J. Mears, who was styled the "intendant"; and J. R. Johnson and T. H. Tabor were commissioners with him; P. H. Milton was town marshall.

In 1885 Rev. N. L. Osborn was pastor of the Ellijay Baptist church, Rev. L. D. Ellington of the M. E. church (with Rev. R. H. Robb assisting on certain Sundays), and Rev. C. A. Jamison of the M. E. church, south.

By 1887 Walter S. Coleman was publishing the Ellijay Courier. He took country produce on subscriptions. Among his largest advertisers were T. J. Long, Martin V. Teem, Weston C. Allen, J. W. Duckett, Dr. James R. Johnson, Ellijay Seminary, Young Harris Institute (now Young Harris college). The town of Young Harris was then called McTyeire, and the institute there was directed by Rev. E. A. Gray.

Joe Jones, brother of the famous evangelist Sam Jones, was an early campaigner in Gilmer for the cause of prohibition. There has always been a forthright element for total abstinence. In 1887 J. M. Worley was active in the same cause. At a rally at his barn he gave a watermelon feast. Pleasant Grove and Flat Branch schools, headed by their respective teachers, attended in separate groups. The meeting was addressed by Rev. John Pettit, M. M. Sessions, Rev. N. L. Osborn, and T. W. Craigo.

A new stage of evolution in housing was hastened by progress in lumber production. Churches, having passed from groves and arbors and homes to log cabins for their individual use, were confronted with abundant lumber that was both good and cheap. By the time this History closes every church and school is in a frame or brick structure if we except, in Ridgeway district, one little Baptist meeting house that has continued to worship in a log cabin.

This movement was speeded up materially during the 1880s under men like J. W. Duckett, who was agent for E. Van Winkle of Atlanta, makers of sawmill machinery that could be taken where timber was and set up for operations there.

In Ellijay, many of the pioneer-type structures were overhauled or replaced. Religious groups, abandoning public buildings, were establishing themselves in frame buildings of their own. At present churches and dwellings both often show a touch of art utterly ignored by our earliest carpenters.

Sawmills, in their important process of ending the importation of lumber, evolved from handsaws that cut like the crosscut saw still remembered and sometimes used. Then they stepped up to getting power from streams. Finally came the circular saw and, for Ellijay at least, the band saw. Now the most common saw is the portable circular type fueled with gasoline. An automobile motor is often used.

The large stationary mills of Ellijay have sometimes found it practicable to supplement their sawing with much lighter portable mills that can go to the woods.

In Ellijay district, during the years 1887 to 1890, there was a five-fold increase in property values. This grew largely out of speeded up transportation methods, as already pointed out.

SECTION TWO

Modern Trends, Conditions

CHAPTER 16

The New Century (1901 through 1932)

The first month of the first year of a new century began with spirited flexing of muscle developed from past hardships and enough appetite for progress to give grounds for hoping it would come. We had developed a fair wind for chasing prosperity, and most of our pains were supposed to be part of our destiny. Fatalism took over where growing pains left off.

Big business still offered long hours and low wages in a single package, and was rising to new peaks of production. We did not suffer much from confusion, for we were used to philosophizing and working so hard we had little time to doctor the social order. The field of opportunity, we stoutly (and usually convincingly) averred, was better than nothing.

Labor, even if it did get small pay, usually found a job. And about everybody that could work was productive. Wholesale cremation was not a subject of conversation or the cancer of private brooding. The social pond, as usual, was full of little frogs that had a surprising amount of pride and self-respect. They stood up against the blows of fate.

Maybe the storks of privilege would not continue to gobble them up almost at will. At any rate the ones that went bravely ahead did a lot better than the ones who merely waited for a better day—and lost their day. With commendable humor they said, "Frogs sometimes slip out of a stork's bill, or they can dive to the bottom of the pond and hold their breath."

There was increasing hope for the young. Rugged individualism was still well mounted, a bit giddy and cocksure, but off for a ride even if this was to slow down, a generation later, to the finish of a Don Quixote. Fortunately, for our corner of the world, the usual products of farm, forest and such industry as we had already developed were demanded by a world that was already crowding to be born into the many-colored phases that we the living know.

1901

Jan. 11. Moving pictures of the Galveston storm horrors are exhibited at Institute Hall, Ellijay, and are referred as an "electric stereopticon." The moving picture, however, is dated from April 23, 1896. The sound picture (after experiments of many years) began in 1926. Equipment for the sound picture was installed with fair promptness at Ellijay.

Jan. 24. Shippen Brothers Lumber Company, Ellijay, prepares to install Gilmer's first dynamo.

Feb. 28. Condemnation of excessive and exorbitant charges for road rights of ways and promotion of better surveys evince awakening-sense on the road question.

The Gilmer County Bank, J. H. Carter, president, B. S. Holden, cashier; Charley Allen, keeper of records, seems readying at Ellijay.

March 28. Prodigious rains raise the County's streams to flood stage.

The removal of the old brick courthouse and the placing of a fountain and other beautification in its place is broached.

H. M. Ellington relinquishes his interest in the "Southern World," a newspaper venture, of Blue Ridge and returns to Ellijay to live.

May 6. J. C. Evans, native Pennsylvanian, friend of education, the M. E. Church and social betterment generally, organizer of the Evans Land and Lumber Company, dies at Ellijay. He came to Gilmer about 1885.

May 9. A new post office, Check, is established on Meece creek, Mountaintown.

Katharine Holt, pioneer, having recently deceased, leaves an estate which her son Larkin of Cherry Log district offers for sale. Mrs. Holt lived to be 96. She was mature when Gilmer County was established. Relatives are widely scattered through the County.

J. E. Parsons trains the Ellijay Brass Band.

J. T. Wise, president, and Joseph Allen, secretary of the newly organized Gilmer County Singing convention, announce a meeting of singers at Cartecay the second Sunday in May and the Saturday before.

The North Georgia Mining and Milling Company, owning land in Gilmer, Murray and Fannin counties, is organized in Atlanta.

Floods wash away four bridges on the Cartecay river alone.

Dec. 29. A. J. Fore, born in 1817, dies. He is survived by a widow to whom he had been married more than 60 years.

1902

Jan. 27. John M. Garrett, after a highly dramatic and heroic experience sheep-herding in Wyoming, is operated on for frostbite on his feet. He always afterward walked with a limp.

Jan. 30. Jack Logan, born in Rutherford county, North Carolina, 1822, dies.

April 10. Jackson Ayers of Roy spent Tuesday night in Ellijay. Mr. Ayers is a Forty-niner who went to California in the time of the first gold stampede.

April 24. The Gilmer County Bank reportedly opens in the old Telephone building, where it continued to operate until it was succeeded by the Bank of Ellijay June 1, 1914.

Jesse Charles, one of the oldest citizens of Gilmer County, aged 86 years, rode into Ellijay on horseback last Tuesday from Ollie, a distance of eight miles, returning the same day. Mr. Charles was in the Florida (Seminole) Indian wars and is, as this incident pointedly reveals, well preserved for a man of his age. He lived until Jan. 22, 1903.

T. H. Tabor and associates petition for a charter as the Ellijay Publishing Company.

May 29. The Ladies String band is already organized and active.

June 5. J. W. Baird, manager of the new Alaculsey Railroad and Lumber Company, north of the Blue Ridge, visits Ellijay.

June 12. Postmaster Bishop has a telephone line extended to the Ellijay post office.

July 4. Many Gilmer people flock to Blue Ridge's picnic and hear Sam Small speak.

July 10. Mont Sharp dies in Cashes Valley. Mr. Sharp taught school in the County around Civil War days and after that.

July 26. Ellijay has a picnic with prizes for winners in hurdles, races and other contests. Farish C. Tate speaks.

Aug. 7. Mrs. J. P. Cole, widow of Peter Cole, dies. Born March 27, 1819, in Buncombe county, North Carolina, she came to Gilmer County, Georgia, in 1841.

Sept. 11. Shippen Brothers are operating a portion of their machinery by electricity.

Oct. 2. First move is made for a telephone system for Ellijay and Gilmer County.

Oct. 16. Barney McHan of Tickanetley experiments successfully with Japanese chestnuts.

Hiram P. Bell, full of years and honors, revisits the scene of his early manhood and labors at Ellijay.

Oct. 30. A K & N railroad, acquired by the Louisville & Nashville railroad system, proposes improved service on the line. Its name was also changed to L & N, and that name it still bears.

Nov. 13. Julius Hartman, German, of Orr, has attracted other immigrants from the Northwest to his part of Gilmer. They added to the useful, productive element of our people.

This year occurred the death of R. Z. (Zimri) Roberts and Larkin Parks.

1903

Jan. 25. A post office named Quarles is established.

A valuable deposit of talc is being worked on the Wishon place near the L & N railroad and close to the Fannin border.

This proves to be a year of cloudbursts and floods. Many miils as well as bridges are washed away. Much damage is done to occasional pieces of land, while at other places the land is silted and improved.

Feb. 16. A K & N surveyors are at work on contemplated changes, looking to improvement, in their road and roadbed.

March 1, Sunday. W. H. Gudger and Miss Bell Osborn are married. As both still live as we write this they have had 62 years of marriage.

March 19. More Germans are planning to immigrate from the Northwest to farm and raise livestock in the County.

J. T. Baker, long a familiar figure and mail carrier around White Path, dies.

April 2. B. S. Holden of Ellijay has a telephone installed. "You can call Blue Ridge (16 miles away) and talk fifteen cents worth in three minutes."

J. W. and Manse Clayton start the most notable apple orchard project of our earlier days.

Telephone service connected through to Knoxville, Tenn.

April 22. Monroe Parks, born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, dies. The year of his birth was 1818. A part of his estate was $2500 in gold coin.

April 30. Diversion of through train service of L & N railroad company by way of Gilmer County is planned.

May 21. William Fouts dies at 83.

June 25. Shippen Brothers Lumber Company petitions incorporation.

July 16. The Gilmer County Bank lists resources of beyond $53,000.

July 23. M. C. Fisher establishes the Ellijay Canning Company and advertises for corn and tomatoes.

July 30. Shippen Brothers receives a large boiler for generating steam for their new dry kiln, also a new portable engine and sawmill for use out in the woods. The company also operates a general store by its Ellijay lumber plant.

Aug. 4. East Ellijay is incorporated.

Aug. 13. Ellijay installs a telephone system.

C. H. Arnold of Atlanta starts orchards on upper Turniptown and invests in more land.

Shippen Brothers calls for two million feet of oak, white pine, yellow pine and poplar saw logs, and as many more feet of white pine, poplar and white oak ready-cut lumber.

Aug. 20. John W. Clayton, native, now a citizen of Atlanta, erects a summer home for himself near Pike.

Sept. 10. A new post office called Marion is established in Bucktown, Henry Weaver, postmaster.

Oct. 1. Gilmer star mail routes are: Snider to Jasper; Diamond to Ellijay; Pisgah to Pike; Tails Creek to Ellijay; Talona to Round Top; Connesauga to Ellijay; Verdell to Round Top; Goble to Round Top; Yates to Talking Rock; Yukon to Talona; Town Creek to Roebuck; Burnett to Cherry Log.

Dec. 17-21. A conference of the M. E. Church convenes at Ellijay.

1904

Jan. 21. Towers Pin & Brackett Company is purchasing dogwood and persimmon wood at the Ellijay siding for the manufacture of shuttle block.

White, red, spanish and water oak timber for chairs is in demand. The chairs were made by the Brumby Company of Marietta.

Feb. 3. John Pickerel, who once lived on the Turnpike road, as the Chatsworth highway was once called, returns from Louisville, Kentucky, to visit the grave of his father, John Pickerel, pioneer of the County.

Feb. 4. "The Misses Logan," who seem to have been the first telephone operators of the County, are succeeded by Miss Hessie Evans.

Feb. 25. Ducktown, Tennessee, mining companies on Georgia's border, and only a few miles from Gilmer's northern limits, agree to abate their smoke nuisance by smelting their copper ores by a new process.

March 14. H. M. Evett, postmaster and merchant at Connesauga, burned out, decides to rebuild.

March 17. W. A. Allen leads in plans for the extension of telephone lines into Yukon, Dyke, Cartecay and Roy communities.

Mineral Bluff Tannery, of Fannin county, buys mountain timber lands in Gilmer.

March 24. Miss Nellie Pierce, back on a furlough from Missionary duty in Korea, speaks in Ellijay. She once taught in the Ellijay Seminary. She left Ellijay for foreign service November 4, 1897.

April 2. Mrs. Osborn Holt dies at the age of 81.

April 28. Surveys are progressing between Wetmore, Tennessee, and Cartersville, Georgia, that may mean, eventually, to Gilmer, a large loss of transportation by railway.

May 1. Night trains go into service on the L & N railroad.

May 8. Mrs. J. H. Dunn, wife of Rev. J. H. Dunn, dies at East Point. Both were formerly prominent and honored citizens of our county.

May 8. Green Felmet, former citizen of Gilmer, veteran of Indian wars and the Confederate army under Longstreet, dies in Texas.

June 2. The County's pauper list contains names of some of the County's oldest and most honored families. Dow Grace is listed.

June 2. A law prohibiting seining and trapping for fish goes into effect June 1 to September 1.

McWilliams of Dalton advertises on a large scale, his firm wishing to buy wool for cash or to work it into cloth on shares.

Plans are announced as complete for a new L & N railroad 25 miles west of Ellijay. The new road, to run north and south, will greatly affect traffic on the local branch of the L & N railroad through the County, as already noted.

June 19. W. R. Welch, Confederate veteran, who represented Gilmer in the legislature, dies at Ellijay.

June 23. Ellijay is receiving night mail.

East Ellijay post office, W. B. Byess, postmaster, is established.

June 30. Telephone connections southward are being extended.

July 7. M. H. Nelson is finishing marble monuments for the A. L. Nelson Marble works of Ellijay.

Aug. 4. Ellijay is connected by long distance telephone service with Atlanta.

Bob Holden harvests 110 bushels of rye from a five-bushel sowing.

Sept. 15. C. H. Arnold and W. S. Henson prepare for raising improved breeds of livestock in the County.

Sept. 29. Tax receipts of Gilmer increase $330.25 over 1903; and property returned for taxation, $142,621.

Oct. 6. Ambrose Lockaby, formerly of Gilmer, dies while trying to rescue a man from a well containing poison gas.

Oct. 12. The body of Lester Jones, killed apparently by a train, is found near White Path.

Oct. 29. Gilmer goes for Theodore Roosevelt for President.

Nov. 3. Harry Stillwell Edwards, the writer from Macon, visits Ellijay and makes a political speech.

Nov. 13. Harold S. Willingham and Bolan G. Brumby, both of Marietta, drive the first automobile into Gilmer County.

Nov. 18. East Ellijay plans a school building.

Nov. 21. Jesse I. Jarrett, prominent citizen and pioneer of Ellijay, dies.

Dec. 1. Mrs. A. H. Burtz writes for the Sunny South, an Atlanta magazine of the times.

Dec. 29. A tree, falling on a small new building, kills Wilson Cantrell and Fletcher Cantrell therein, near Snider.

1905

Jan. 19. H. M. Ellington becomes postmaster of Ellijay, Frank Greer assistant.

J. F. Holden, former citizen and teacher of Gilmer, is advanced in Carter banking interests.

Feb. 1. Mrs. William K. Griffith dies.

Feb. 2. J. H. Carter and B. S. Holden purchase and take over the business of the Towers Pin and Brackett Company.

Feb. 20. Rev. J. L. Anderson (born May 25, 1879) drowns in Owltown creek; his body, however, was not recovered till the 18th day of the following May. He is believed to have misjudged the force of the swollen creek when he rode his horse into it.

March 7. The Osborn Holt estate is auctioned off to Holt heirs, and shortly after is bought by the Shippen brothers and Dr. J. W. Graham.

March 30. Sentiment against the ancient but ruinous custom of woods burning grows.

William Page dies at 87.

April 5. Shippen Brothers Company offers to supply Ellijay with electric lights and perhaps power for other uses.

Marion West, who married a Mulkey and is widely connected in the County, dies.

April 13. Ellijay ships Gilmer lumber to Europe, receiving from London a remittance made out in pounds, shillings and pence.

The L & N railroad routes through trains, between Atlanta and Cincinnati, through Gilmer.

The West Virginia company buys forest lands in Gilmer and Dawson counties.

April 16. A freeze hits the County.

Visiting among the folks is noted as going out of style.

May 29. Stanton-Field Lumber consolidates with Shippen Brothers.

C. J. Kell, father of James, Martin and Lester Kell and Mrs. J. B. Bearden, died this year.

June 8. Gilmer gets $1,183.66 state convict hire to be applied to the improvement of roads in the several militia districts.

The population of Gilmer is announced as 10,198. Seventy-seven of these are listed as Negro, which is a large showing of black people for Gilmer County. Though in slavery days Negroes numbered 200.

Property values for 1904 were $812,391. The price of land is said to range from $2.50 to $25 per acre. Forest timbers are chiefly oak and poplar.

Agricultural products are: Cotton, corn, wheat, oats, rye, upland rice, sorghum cane, Irish and sweet potatoes, field peas and beans, red top, timothy, bermuda, clover, crab, orchard and blue grass. In horticulture, products listed are: Apples, peaches, quinces, plums, cherries, grapes, some berries (many of these wild) and melons—and many kinds of vegetables. Minerals: Gold, iron, white and variegated marble, limestone, sandstone, mica, slate, and granite.

June 14. Nathan T. Tabor dies. Born Oct. 12, 1820, he was married Sept. 26, 1840. He is survived by his widow and a son, T. H. Tabor, and two daughters,

Mrs. J. S. Hudson and Miss Emma C. Tabor. A Confederate veteran, he was also the friend of education, temperance, and religion.

July 1. The good roads movement gains impetus.

The tax digest shows an increase of $25,000 in taxable property in the County.

July 6. Horace M. Ellington reads a racy, pointed paper on the Georgia Cracker to a press meeting at Cordele, Georgia.

July 27. Mrs. J. M. Dorn, long in charge of White Path Hotel, dies at Sanford, Florida. Major J. M. Dorn, her husband, dies there on the second day of the following November.

Aug. 10. The L & N railroad places a night operator at Ellijay.

Ordinary T. H. Tabor buys two new safes for the preservation of Gilmer County legal records.

Aug. 17. Iron ore is being shipped from the County.

Aug. 31. Seven hundred sheep trample through Ellijay—a pastoral sight familiar to early generations but rare these hectic, mechanized days.

Sept. 14. W. S. Yeates, state geologist, looks over and appraises Gilmer ores.

The Southern Bell Telephone Company purchases the telephone line from Ellijay to Jasper and has installed, in the Cole drug store, a long-distance service southward.

Spiritual Leader to Many

REV. W. I. McVEY

Sept. 21 or near that date. Providence school house burns.

Sept. 27. Rev. and Mrs. N. L. Osborn celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Oct. 22. William Quillian, son of Bethel Quillian, is buried in Cartecay district.

Nov. 9. Rev. Wesley Ashe, once a student at Ellijay Seminary, lectures on conditions in India, where he has served as a medical missionary.

Shippen Brothers Lumber Company installs machinery to convert wood waste into pulp.

Nov. 16. Goble post office is re-established, J. W. Henderson, in charge.

Nov. 30. Ordinary T. H. Tabor, in making a strenuous campaign to get more efficient recording of marriages, discovers 50 or more years have elapsed between the issuance of some marriage licenses and the recording of the marriage which they authorized.

Gilmer is now averaging 100 marriages a year.

Dec. 6. Ruth Ellen Shippen, at the age of 12, shows aptitude in English composition.

Dec. 7. New vigor is infused into the good-roads movement.

Dec. 14. Oak Hill post office, S. A. Burrell, postmaster, is established.

Dec. 21. The Cartecay Iron Company is organized for mining iron, gold. copper and other minerals near East Ellijay, on the north bank of the Cartecay river.

1906

Jan. 11. Rev. W. I. McVey, Fannin native, has become a citizen of Boardtown.

Jan. 25. Quarles, a new post office, is established in Tails Creek district.

Feb. 9. Calloway Whisenant, 76, pioneer hatter, marries Mrs. Martha A. Davis, 45. The Whisenants have a lasting and important memorial in Whisenant mountain north of Newhope Church; and a lookout tower on the mountain is also named for the family.

Feb. 18. Albert Hyde dies.

About this date, in the dusk of evening, the whole of upper Boardtown valley was lighted by a meteor, half as big as the moon, apparently, that plunged, without a sound, behind Bushyhead mountain.

March 21. After a mild February, winter swoops back in with late severe killing frosts. For several successive springs fruit has thus been much damaged.

March 29. Heavy passenger train service operates through Gilmer, two trains operate in the day, two at night, and all are usually well filled with passengers.

April 8. T. H. Tabor purchases the famous White Path hotel, with its 30 or more rooms and wealth of historical associations dating back of the days of white occupation. Furniture, piano and fixtures, 160 acres of ground and the celebrated mineral and freestone springs are included in the sale.

April 18. Elijah Russell, ordinary of Gilmer County 1872-76, Confederate veteran, dies.

April 26. In order to forestall infectious diseases, a cattle quarantine is placed around Gilmer except that cattle may come in from Fannin county.

May 21. David Dillingham dies.

May 27. Through passenger train service is inaugurated on the new L & N railroad west of Gilmer and traversing Murray county, thus diverting much passenger service, of this type, from Gilmer.

Miss Elsa Triplett, blind from infancy, sister of Rev. Harve Triplett, dies at 80.

Rev. P. P. Carroll, who was raised in Gilmer, returns, after a visit here, to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he pastors a prominent church. He is reportedly among the most successful ministers in that region of the West.

Miss Carrie Logan has resigned her position in the telephone exchange. Miss Logan was either the first operator, or worked with the first of Ellijay's telephone operators.

June 28. A new post office, called Roosevelt, is established. It was located on the old Tails Creek road near Dover's Chapel.

Edward J. Robeson, formerly of Gilmer, becomes superintendent of Gainesville public schools.

July 4. The Odd Fellows sponsor a largely attended picnic near Ellijay on the T. W. Craigo (now the R. A. Pinson) property, the occasion coming the week of a teachers institute.

Aug. 2. William Smith, a migrant from Ellijay in 1876, to Hendersonville, North Carolina (where he reportedly becomes owner of the street railway system, Laurel Park and other valuable property), assists in entertaining H. M. Ellington and other members of a press meet there.

Aug. 30. Much improvement is being made on rocky and other formerly almost impassable places on the public roads. A few roads once followed the channels of streams.

Sept. 20. J. S. Hudson and J. S. Smith are appointed cattle inspectors of Gilmer County.

Sept. 27. Ellijay and Gilmer County are both free of debt.

Nov. 5. "Uncle" John Dale is among the pensioners of Gilmer. Now nearly 90, he is pensioned for helping remove the Indians from Gilmer in 1838..

Nov. 8. White Path hotel and furnishings having been sold, pass permanently from the hands of the Dorn family.

Nov. 19. The combined force of storms and floods strikes Gilmer, especially the western half. Four bridges, two dwellings, several mills are washed away. Immense damage is done fences, roads and farms. Eight huge holes in the ground in upper Mountaintown are attributed to waterspouts. Al Ratcliff said a wall of water 50 feet high came rushing down Mountaintown creek. Damage, varying from slight to total destruction, regarding mills, is also reported from Cherry Log, Ellijay and Boardtown districts.

At Ellijay the Cartecay and Ellijay rivers almost fill the Ellijay valley; but the bridges of the area stood. On the west side of the County an apple orchard was washed away, and Rev. N. L. Osborn woke up to find some of his house furniture floating around the room. A milk cow of John Rogers, swept away in a flood, walked back after two days. Perhaps it was in this same flood period that a small dwelling, presumably in the night, went bobbing and swirling and tossing down Mountaintown creek. The only token of occupants having recently vacated the house was a little kerosene lamp still lit and standing on a table.

Nov. 29. More than $100,000 damage has come to the County from a recent succession of floods, in which five bridges are swept away.

Dec. 5. W. M., M. I. and H. V. Teem and C. B. Kelley buy the Hyatt hotel from the original builder, D. M. Hyatt.

Dec. 6. Madison Robeson, brother of the late John H. Robeson, founder of Oakland academy, is said to have recently drowned. He once lived in Cartecay district.

Dec. 13. Mrs. Lollie (Bell) Burtz of Ellijay is receiving recognition for her stories and romances of the Cherokee Indians.

Gilmer's taxable property values since 1892 have increased $90,000. On May 24 the County had in the treasury $5,000. Taxable values within the year have risen $45,045.

This year Georgia began a campaign to limit child labor.

1907

The year 1906 closed with a scarcity of money. The opening of 1907 was perhaps worse. But, after the lapse of a few months, the stringency was over and the runnels of trade were flowing again with their former smoothness.

Feb. 19. Martin V. Teem, outstanding among citizens of Ellijay, dies.

March 26. George Watkins dies. He was one of the County's owners of extensive lands. He left numerous descendants, mention of whom is made elsewhere.

April 4. Major Frank Williams, born in North Carolina, dies in his native state. Mrs. P. H. Milton, a daughter of East Ellijay, survives.

Early in June. Aaron S. Tatum is in Gilmer, where he taught school more than 50 years before.

June 20. Gilmer farmers, 500 in number, organize, with J. H. James selected leader.

July 1-5. A teachers institute at Ellijay is conducted by Herman J. Gaertner. Those were the days of the "expert."

July 4. Ellijay enjoys a picnic, Odd Fellow sponsored, in a grove near the present R. A. Pinson home. L. T. Reed was speaker.

July 8. Rev. John Warlick, Methodist pastor from Springfield, Ill., and T. H. Triplett of Atlanta return to visit old home scenes and friends in Gilmer.

Aug. 11. Boardtown is host to a well attended Sunday School convention at New Salem.

Aug. 22. C. R. Allen, who was graduated from Mercer University the past June, is elected principal of Jesup High school, Wayne county.

Sept. 5. Dolomite or dolomitic limestone (usually referred to as whitestone), found at the southern limits of Gilmer County is in brisk demand.

A crew of men opens iron and marble deposits at Talona.

Sept. 12. Assistant state geologist, S. W. McCallie, pronounces the mineral waters of White Path very pure and valuable, rich in mineral content and variety; that in fact, White Path would be a fine place to establish a great sanitarium. He thinks the gold there has been forcibly blown up from considerable depths of the earth, and that the surrounding mountains were once much higher; and, furthermore, that more gold than was ever removed still remains in the ground about the area.

Dr. McCallie also pronounces the texture and quality of Gilmer marble excellent, iron ores of the County capable of much greater and more profitable development, and its water powers vast in possibilities.

Sept. 14. T. H. Tabor, ordinary, in spite of a falling off of $32,000 in taxable property returns from 1906, and with five bridges carried away by floods and to be replaced, keeps taxes low and administers his duties with economy.

Oct. 19, 20. A reunion of the family of George Watkins, who died the 26th of the past March, is held at his old home in Boardtown. Mr. Watkins was one of 12 children, and his mother is still alive at the age of 104.

His widow and eight children also survive. Forty-seven persons, after worshipping together, enjoy a bountiful dinner at which five generations are seated.

Dec. 12. Rural route 1, northward from Ellijay, is established.

Dec. 14. Mrs. Mary Dillingham dies. Sons, Barnett, Virgil, survive her. Mrs. Dillingham was a sister of Mark Mears, of note in musical circles.

Dec. 18. Mrs. Celia Sumner, widow of Solomon Sumner, dies.

Dec. 19. S. P. Brokaw travels extensively and writes in a concise, fact-filled, sprightly style about it.

A plant for crushing whitestone is being erected at the dolomite mines at the southern border of Gilmer.

A waterspout washes away Frank Ledford's mill on Boardtown.

1908

Jan. 1. Gilmer feels the effects of a new Georgia labor law which forbids employment of children under 10 in any factory and, those under 18, unless they are in school at least three months in the year.

Gilmer County starts 1908 with taxes low, out of debt, with bridges and public buildings in good order, and public records shipshape. Besides, the County has on hand funds to pay current expenses during the new year.

Feb. 2. The thermometer falls to nine below zero.

Feb. 3. Mail, for the first time in the history of Gilmer County, is carried on a rural route by Ed Frady on route 1, which went up Boardtown road.

March 13. Salem Baptist church dedicates its third house of worship. Its first home was a log cabin; its second, a large frame structure that was never ceiled.

The new building, while smaller, is more modern in design and is a considerable gain in comfort.

Salem is said to have been formed about 1855 by people with letters from Buckhorn Baptist church, formed in 1842. These people lived nearer the site of Salem and considered themselves too far south to attend Buckhorn conveniently. As the forming of the new congregation came about the time Landrine J. Tatum established residence in the Buckhorn community, it is believed he helped form the new group. The old records of the early church long lay about the second of these buildings. Finally lost, they had confirmed this conclusion.

March 26. Dr. J. H. Davis practices his profession with apparent success at Dodson, Louisiana.

April 4. The Simonpure and the Slicktail Democratic factions hold separate rallies in Ellijay.

April 16. C. H. Arnold of Atlanta has good prospects of a yield of fruit from his 20,000 peach trees and 2,000 cherry trees on Walnut mountain.

Dr. James R. Johnson (born June 10, 1838) dies.

April 23. Marble tombstones and monuments are sold from a shop at Simp Burrell's, near Ebenezer meeting house, by Aaron S. Tatum.

April 24. A storm slashes across Gilmer in a northeasternly direction. Much property damage is reported, but no immediate fatalities. Several persons are injured, however.

The Simonpure Democratic committee of Gilmer gains recognition before the State Democratic Executive committee. The opposing (Slicktail) group gains favor with Populists, Republicans and some others not regularly affiliated because they favored for them a conditional vote in a Democratic primary.

April 30. J. B. Ralston writes a flavorsome story of a trip around Cape Horn. Ralston shows a real knack for writing. What is better still, though landlubber born, he has in his phrasing, caught the real salt and tang of the sea.

July 8. Mrs. W. A. Kell dies. She was the mother of Mesdames Sarah J. Roberts, Annie Cline, Ellen S. Nelson, Rebecca Teem, and Messrs. Erastus, T. H. and Juan Kell.

July 9. A flourishing lodge of Red Men is reported from Round Top. A hall for the accommodation of the order nears completion.

July 15. A considerable group of transient laborers (both sexes) migrate to Adairsville and other peach-producing communities to help harvest the fruit.

July 16. Federal representatives hear testimony from persons of Cherokee blood preparatory to a distribution of shares of Indian funds.

July 25, August 18 and 29 mark dates of well publicized picnics for the summer of 1908.

July 30. Tax returns swing slightly up for the first time since 1906. This ends a drop of around $35,000 for the last two successive years.

Aug. 13. White Path hotel, operated by C. A. Hix, has 150 guests.

Aug. 18. The Farmers Union of the County holds a well attended picnic at Ellijay. Dinner on the ground, with plenty of watermelon and music.

Sept. 3. Mrs. Nancy (Smith) Watkins is 105. She is the mother of 12 children; she is herself the youngest of 21 children, 18 brothers and three sisters, of whom she alone survives. She is active for her age.

The fusionists win in County elections.

Oct. 8. Elkin Kell, born 1825, dies.

Gilmer learns with profound regret of the death of General William Phillips, who was prime mover in the building of a railroad through its territory.

Oct. 15. Elliott & Byess manufactures furniture in East Ellijay.

Capt. C. L. Adams becomes a harness maker at Ellijay.

Nov. 3. William Howard Taft carries Gilmer in the Presidential race.

Nov. 12. Horace A. Field leases, from Q. A. Bradley, iron land, at Talona, for a twenty-year period.

Sulphuric acid manufacture, on an immense scale at Copper Hill, Tennessee, promises permanent relief from noxious gases heretofore spread over Gilmer.

This step also assures us of the continued operation of the copper mines, of which the sulphuric acid is a product.

Nov. 26. Judge Jesse Wicle, formerly of Cartecay, Gilmer County, has recently died in Cartersville at the age of 83.

Gilmer, passing through a coalition period in politics, with T. H. Tabor much in the lead, labors to a new political birth.

An Odd Fellows hall is completed at Ellijay.

Fine stone for edging tools is found on Burnt Mountain. It has a grain and resembles petrified wood. This sounds like kyanite.

Drs. St. J. B. Graham and Dudley of Savannah lease River Street residences of Mrs. C. B. Kelley and Mrs. Alice Teem for a sanatorium, which they purpose to open about the first of March next.

The Tioga Iron mines are in operation.

Dec. 31. Verdell post office is discontinued.

1909

April 29. Ellijay Odd Fellows lodge has some 200 members.

May 11. Mr. Barnes, the showman without hands, exhibits moving pictures in Ellijay. The writer had seen his first ones at Copper Hill early in 1906.

May 13. Ellijay organizes a board of trade. The Coosawattee-Mountaintown Rivers Power and Improvement Company prepares for business.

Cottage Sanitarium opens at Ellijay.

June 3. C. H. Arnold estimates he will harvest some 4,000 crates of peaches from his mountain peach orchard.

Ellijay Board of Trade is active.

June 6. New and improved train service is effective.

June 15. In the summer of 1909, Ellijay, through its board of trade, issues an illustrated booklet descriptive of Ellijay and the rest of the County. It shows Ellijay in a panoramic view; the Cottage Sanitoria of Dr. J. B. Graham, the public school, three churches, lumber yards, several business houses, the East Ellijay dam, and a few persons in other illustrations. It was Ellijay's best effort, of this form, up to this date. The memoranda in the booklet will always be important.

The North Georgia Marble Company, operating at Tioga, under Horace A. Field and capitalized at $100,000, is dealing in marble, limestone and brown hematite.

June 17. Quite an eddy on cattle-tick eradication spreads among the people.

The "Blue Ridge accommodation train" adds much to the convenience of passengers and train service in Gilmer.

June 18. Ellijay is visited by the most disastrous fire in its history. The blaze begins with the Teem hotel. Firefighters, depending upon wells and buckets, are unable to stop the flames. Principal damage is inflicted upon the Teem hotel, Welch buildings, Masonic building and an adjoining structure housing the post office, telephone and central office, and the residence of H. M. Ellington. It has been sixteen and a half years to a day since the first Teem hotel (in the same location) was destroyed by fire. This would place the first conflagration December 18, 1892.

OLD TEEM HOTEL

Last of the Structures of this Name, Destroyed by Fire, June 18, 1909.
At one time this structure contained a drug store and family quarters. Mrs. Gladys Teem Worley of Marietta has identified persons in the picture. First floor, from left, 5th person (seated) is Martin Van Buren Teem; 6th person (also seated) is his mother, Jemima Allen Teem (Mrs. Israel Teem); next, is Mr. Stansbury. Second floor, from left, 2nd person (standing), William Milton Teem; 3rd (also standing), Martin Israel Teem; 5th, Waldo Kirby. Girls on 3rd floor could be Gladys, Bernice or Ruby Teem.

Indian Relationships

June 24. The following persons of Gilmer County have established sufficient proof of Indian blood to entitle them to participate in the Federal Eastern Cherokee fund. None are full bloods, however.

Blankenship, Rebecca A.; Carter, Martha and Children; Cornett, Martha and Children; Goble, Nancy; Goble, W. and Children; Hensley, Emma J. and Children; Hensley, Estella May and Children; Jenkins, Mareda; Key, Samantha N. and Children; Langley, Velma and Children; Langley, William A. and Children; Pankey, Elnora and Children; Quarles, Henry B. and Children; Quarles, James S. and Children; Quarles, Mary A. and Children; Ray, Lula Ella and Children; Rogers, Pearlee Ann; Sanford, Sarah and Children; Tucker, John M. and Children; Turner, Lidora and Children; Veal, Sarah L. and Children; Vick, Dora and Children; Vick, Mary and Children; Ward, Charles J.; Ward, Jimmie May; Wishon, Robert C.; Wishon, William T. and Children.

Sept. 16. Turniptown rural school is reported to have taken advantage of the Georgia educational law of 1906 and levied a special tax for the support of its public school, the first district, apparently, to make such a progressive step.

The Gilmer County Fair is organized by Congressman Thomas M. Bell with officers: T. G. Simmons, president; Charles S. Allen, secretary; B. S. Holden, treasurer.

Sept. 23. Ellijay enjoys a brisk building season.

Oct. 14. The County announces prizes to be awarded at its forthcoming fair.

L. L. (Fate) Bishop has a retail and wholesale store in Dalton and is an alderman there.

Oct. 31. Daniel Angus Smith (born December 5, 1822) dies.

Nov. 4. Gilmer County Fair, consisting of competition in agricultural products and promoted by Congressman Bell, is held. This was the embryo of the later fair of more ambitious programs.

Nov. 30. Owltown and Santa Luca post offices are discontinued.

Dec. 28. C. R. Allen and Miss Rebecca Kinsey are married.

1910

Jan. 8. Uriah Welden, Confederate veteran, dies at 86.

Mrs. Nancy Watkins dies at Ellijay at the age of 109 or 110.

Feb. 3. The Tioga Iron Company leases the Fields iron-producing lands at Tioga. Mr. Fields, former operator of the mines, will continue to quarry marble.

Feb. 17. W. H. Allen, Democratic group chairman in Gilmer, is recognized by the Georgia Democratic Executive committee.

Shippen Brothers Lumber mill, at Ellijay, employing about 100 men, is destroyed by fire at a loss of some $20,000. This occurred at a date probably in the early part of the year.

This spring Dr. N. C. Goss purchases an "auto-buggy" to use in his medical practice. This was said to have been the first automobile type of vehicle ever used by a native within the County. On account of the bad roads of the time, the experiment failed and the auto-buggy was taken off the roads.

April 15. National enumeration begins in Gilmer. It reveals interesting trends. For instance, during the last ten years the production of cattle and sweet

potatoes remained at the same figures as ten years previous. Horses, mules, sheep, hogs, and corn variously declined, while poultry increased 18 per cent.

The number of farms tilled fell off 39 per cent. Farm ownership dropped slightly. The rank of the County in farm tenancy was 13, and showed a minimum of mortgage indebtedness. Population, dropping from 10,198 to 9,237 registered a loss of 9 per cent. Corn production, 282,240 bushels in 1900, fell, in 1910, to 209,862 bushels.

Gilmer, having 20 people to the square mile, ranks 133rd in density among the counties of the state.

April 25. It is reported to have snowed all day.

In May, Halley's comet creates profound interest and no little superstitious speculation.

July 14. The White Path Gold Mining Company has been organized. Jasper Holt is reported to have struck gold on old Austin Bluff, notable for rich yields during the early days of gold digging at White Path.

Sept. 22. Simonpure Democrats are accused of "revising" the jury box so thoroughly they leave out about all their political enemies.

Oct. 20. The disfranchisement of many white Gilmer County voters creates fierce and bitter repercussions. The board of registrars challenges the right of 500 men to vote in Democratic primaries and leaves 336 off the voters list.

The Democrats maintain they do not object to anybody voting—only to a man who is a Republican casting a vote in a primary designed for the use of Democrats only. To this day no Republican primary has been organized in Gilmer. Republicans vote in the Democratic primary if they wish to.

But the two Democratic factions, Simonpures and Slicktails, that existed earlier in the new century, have dissolved.

Ellijay and the County at large have the medical ministrations of Doctors Lovingood, Dudley, Graham, and Tankersley.

1911

Jan. 4. A special term of Gilmer superior court is ordered by Judge N. A. Morris to dispose of three murder cases.

April 2. Jackson Ayers, father of R. L. Ayers, dies. He was one of the early gold seekers to California. A genuine friend and faithful in his devotion to his church.

April 6. The Woman's Club of Ellijay, Mrs. Charme Brown Shippen, president, true to its usual form, gets to practical, intelligent points, resolving that, "While desiring to help others and work for the good of our community, we will spend some time each month studying County History. Any help from those who are acquainted with Gilmer County History will be greatly appreciated."

April 12. Dr. E. W. Watkins (Sr.) becomes president of Gilmer County bank.

April 19. Gilmer County bank reorganizes with (besides Dr. E. W. Watkins, president) W. A. Allen, vice president, and B. S. Holden cashier.

April 26. Ellijay has a population of 659; East Ellijay, 291.

May 20. Mrs. W. H. (Henry) Pettit of Cherry Log dies. She was born Dec. 18, 1848. Children surviving are four daughters at home and a son, John W. Mrs. Pettit became an invalid in April 1883. The last 14 years of her life she was

bedridden. But her family, with a patience that should be an inspiration to any one who knows the facts about it, cared tenderly for her to the end of her days. A family of modest pretenses but one rich in character and deed.

July 22. James Leonard Holden dies. He is survived by children: Mesdames Sarah Elizabeth Barker, Carrie James; Messrs. Fletcher J., Ben F.

Aug. 20. Mrs. John Hipp, former prominent resident of Ellijay and mother of Messrs. J. O. and Juan Hipp, Mesdames W. F. Pitts, Short, Giles, and Roby, dies at Blue Ridge, and is interred at Ellijay.

September. Gilmer tightens restrictions on game hunting.

Sept. 2. Ellijay school opens with 58 students.

Oct. 16. John Burgess dies.

Nov. 1. H. A. Field introduces Tioga natives to the rather complicated and labor-saving uses of a shredder.

Nov. 22. The Berry Schools for boys and girls advertise liberally in the Ellijay Times.

1912

Jan. 5. Lindsey Harper, thrifty, energetic, prosperous, dies in the upper part of Mountaintown. He shipped and drove out, in his day, a great many herds of livestock—cattle, sheep, hogs, horses principally. He knew how to make herding pay. Probably no man ever knew Gilmer's uninhabited mountain grazing ranges better.

Feb. 14. A tri-county meet of doctors assembles at the Hyatt hotel, Ellijay, in an endeavor looking to the promotion of a regional embryo health clinic.

"Merchant Frank Gates brought in from Mountaintown, the other day, a wagon load of various kinds of roots dug from the hills and coves of this section. They will be used mostly for medicinal purposes."

March 11. Gilmer is favored with a widely announced agricultural class lasting four days. Some called it a "school" for farmers. It created a measure of enthusiasm.

March 24. Kimsey Quarles dies at the Goble Crossing of the Coosawattee river while, reportedly, trying to swim to a ferryboat for the accommodation of neighbors.

In the spring of this year the Boys Corn clubs are organized. Garnett Jones wins first prize. By April 30, 1913, the club has enrolled 118 members.

July 1. The Teachers Institute, a sort of course in greater normal efficiency and inspiration toward better teacher quality and scholarship, opens at Ellijay under the direction of Miss Celeste Parrish.

July 29. Alec Hopkins and Truman Shippen reach Coosawattee River Falls from Ellijay by small boat. The river from the Goble Bend is so rough for boaters that such a feat has never before been accomplished. We have never heard of any person's going all the way to Carter's.

Sept. 25. A new railroad depot is completed at Ellijay.

Nov. 5. Gilmer goes for Woodrow Wilson.

Nov. 8. A very destructive fire again visits Ellijay, consuming 23 houses with a loss of $50,000. A costly incident that aroused the people of Ellijay fully and finally to the need for waterworks. Rebuilding of the city began promptly. The

new designs for the individual houses as well as the whole city was to render such fires less likely.

Dec. 4. Dr. A. J. Bishop, Gilmer native, is living near Knoxville, Tennessee.

1913

Jan. 6. Mrs. Susan Pinson, widow of Bartlett Pinson, dies after a widowhood extending over 48 years. She was the mother of sons, Jack, Joe, Sam, and Arthur Pinson; and daughters, Margaret, Mary and Susan Adeline, all of whom died early in life.

The father of Bartlett Pinson was Aaron Pinson (born Feb. 5, 1784), pioneer. A brother of Bartlett Pinson was named Aristides, sometimes referred to as Phideas and Tiddy. He was born Aug. 23, 1817.

Mrs. Pinson died at the old Pinson home in the White Path community. This is the ancient home of Indian Chief White Path. Bartlett Pinson built to the north end of the house. This is the only Indian-built house remaining in the County.

Feb. 17. Four safe blowers, after having blown open a Dahlonega bank, flee into Ellijay but are captured and returned to Dahlonega.

March 4. S. D. Allen dies in Cartecay district at the age of 96. He leaves two daughters, Mesdames Dessie Tatum and J. S. Davis; two sons, Rev. J. R. Allen, W. A. Allen.

March 12. Western buyers purchase land adjoining "Lucky 8" gold mine, presumably to prospect for more gold.

April 8. E. T. Foote, Confederate veteran and former Ellijay business man, dies at Ellijay.

April 17. An earthquake shock is felt in the County.

April 23. Mrs. Thomas Parks, while living in "The Bend," a secluded section of Gilmer on the lower Coosawattee river, snatches time from her household duties to write and take prize-winning snapshots of the quaint and highly scenic.

May 7. Mrs. Horace M. Ellington dies.

June 5. Mrs. Hessie Evans Tankersley, daughter of John C. Evans, dies. She was born Dec. 19, 1882. Survivors, in Ellijay, were a son James, still a resident of Ellijay, and Dr. J. S. Tankersley, her husband now deceased.

July 4. A good roads rally, held at Pump Springs, Ellijay, is attended by citizens of four counties, including, of course, Gilmer. A popular subscription, the meeting decides, is the only feasible plan to start road improvement.

July 28. Mrs. A. Bishop, mother of L. L., L. E., W. C., Dr. A. J. Bishop, and two daughters, dies.

Aug. 3. Nathaniel Smith dies. Surviving sons are Hamilton, Sam, Nathaniel Paul, Charlie; and daughters, Mesdames John Sumner, Lewis Bramlett, Lester Kell, Pink Sumner.

Sept. 5. Mrs. Williamson Warlick, mother of Mrs. Mary Nicholson and sons, Rev. T. J., Rev. J. R., C. E., J. C., L. H., D. A., B. F., and W. H., dies.

Sept. 29. Mrs. E. M. Allen, mother of Joe M. Allen, W. C. Allen and M. A. Allen, also other sons and daughters, dies.

Oct. 9. Burton Parks, father of James L., George, W. B., Joseph, Jasper, and Mrs. Lou Harper, dies.

Nov. 14. Asbury Cantrell, Gilmer Corn club member, raises 105 bushels of corn on an acre of ground. Fine showings are also made by Garnett Jones, T. H. Harper, and others. This score has been much exceeded since 1913.

Nov. 29. Boardtown moves toward telephone service north from Ellijay. But it took the community until 1958 to realize this step in progress.

Dec. 8. The County and its courts are stirred over the sensational killing of Henry Jones at the hands of his son, Ben H. Jones.

Dec. 10. For the highest percentage of increase in yield of corn per acre over the usual yield on the same land under usual farm conditions, the following farm boys received prizes in corn club projects: Henry Moore, Love Pettit, Reed Henson, Everett Henson, Crawford Ayers, Candler Sharp.

Gilmer also takes seventh sweepstakes prize; and, for the counties in northwest Georgia showing the largest number of boys working under the improvement plan together with reports and exhibits, Gilmer wins first prize.

1914

Jan. 13. A. J. Cole, honored citizen, father of J. G. and H. C. Cole of Ellijay, dies at his home in Mountaintown district. Mr. Cole, a Confederate veteran, was in the desperate fighting at Franklin, Tennessee, and was hit 17 times during the battle.

Feb. 3. The cause of good roads is gaining by being disseminated in discussions and comparisons that enlighten the people and confirm them in their determination to have the roads.

March 15. Miss Judith LaFrage is placed in charge of a newly established telegraph office in Ellijay.

April 4. Miss Rosa Teem dies.

April 8. John W. Moreland, of Gilmer's pioneer stock, dies. He leaves a widow, three sons (J. T., L. F., E. F.), and one daughter, Mrs. J. H. James.

April 13. Shippen grist mill burns.

April 15. Although without funds to support a canning club, the girls of Gilmer County begin to form clubs by correspondence and eager observation.

April 21. Mack Parks dies at 84.

May 20. The Woman's Club co-operates with Mayor Claude Watkins in a campaign to maintain and strengthen the moral atmosphere of Ellijay.

May 29. Geological surveyors are busy in the County.

June 1. The Bank of Ellijay succeeds the old Gilmer County bank. Officers of the new institution are Sam Tate, president; R. L. McClain, vice president; E. T. Hudson, cashier. The new bank is capitalized at $25,000, with quarters in the old Telephone building.

July 8. H. M. Ellington, after serving some 10 years as postmaster at Ellijay, is succeeded by N. L. Tankersley.

July 29. Rev. Aaron S. Tatum of Florida labors among the churches of his boyhood home.

Sept. 23. John Young of Town Creek dies at 85.

Oct. 1. Concrete walks are being laid around the square at Ellijay.

Oct. 31. Mrs. L. M. Greer dies.

Dec. 9. Willard Cantrell leads Gilmer Corn club with a yield of 129 bushels.

1915

Jan. 24. Baptist young people of Ellijay start a training department of the church devoted to themselves, the organization being called the B. Y. P. U.

March 25. Glover Harris, Confederate veteran, dies in Cartecay district.

March 29. Marcus (Mart) Cox, prominent Ellijay citizen of a pioneer family, dies.

May 20. M. C. King of Copper Hill, Tennessee, with Ed Barclay assisting him, opens a general builders supply business at Ellijay.

June 1. The Bank of Ellijay vacates the old Telephone building and enters quarters (where the Eller Shoe business is now) it retained until Dec. 31, 1958.

Sept. 16. After serving as progressive mayor of Ellijay, Claude Watkins goes west for his health.

Nov. 20. Ball Ground district goes "no fence," which means its people have voted to quit fencing their premises and will hereafter require citizens to keep their livestock under their own fences.

Dec. 9. The Ellijay Mercantile Company succeeds the firm of Teem Brothers, and continues to occupy the old location by the railroad station.

Dec. 21. Mrs. Frank Shippen (maiden name, Georgia Truman) dies, leaving survivors, besides her husband, sons, Herbert, Truman; a daughter, Elizabeth. Mrs. Shippen was a sister to Mrs. J. P. Cobb. She was born November 21, 1868.

Dec. 30. Horace M. Ellington, in relinquishing his hold of the Ellijay Courier, with which he has been connected off and on for 25 years, offers a fitting farewell through its columns.

1916

Jan. 21. Mrs. J. W. Duckett dies.

Feb. 6. James A. Gudger, aged 86, of a pioneer family, familiarly known as "Alex," dies at the home of his son, William H. Gudger.

Ned Stuart is found dead by the L & N railroad, reportedly near the Turniptown trestle.

March 22. The electric plant and equipment of Shippen Brothers burns. All is replaced by May 19.

May 19. L. D. Henson and J. P. Holloway, having opened a motion picture show next to Kelly's livery stable, are showing some good clean pictures. They will run three nights a week.

This was Ellijay's first moving picture house.

May 31-June 2. The Radcliffe Chautauqua offers a program of rare excellence at Ellijay.

June 16. Hiram Buckner dies at the reputed age of 116. He is spoken of as "the oldest man in Georgia." This is the age attributed to Dow Grace at his death years later. Both men were natives of Buncombe county, North Carolina. Thus Gilmer, within one generation, contained—perhaps—the State's oldest two citizens, both white.

June 30. Mrs. J. T. (Martha) Anderson dies. Mrs. Anderson's husband died in 1861. She was born and raised in Habersham county, moving to Gilmer in

1851. She was buried Sunday in old Cohutta cemetery in Mountaintown district. She is survived by children: T. M., Mrs. Sarah Shope (wife of Rev. E. B. Shope and mother of Theron S. Shope), J. H., H. M., and Mrs. Sarah Moreland.

July 1. The Farmers union passes and presses vigorous resolutions regarding fumes damages to Gilmer farmers and timber owners.

Aug. 4. Clarence N. Walker locates in Ellijay for the practice of law.

Aug. 6. The First Baptist church of Ellijay enters a new brick building.

T. J. (Joe) Long dies. He is survived by a widow to whom he was married in 1868, and whose maiden name was Mira Davis; daughters, Mesdames J. W. Hutchison, A. P. Jackson, John W. Anderson, W. A. Kelley, M. E. Pinson. Will, a son, preceded him in death.

Joe Long was a son of Martin Long, and was born May 1, 1844. Mary J. (May 15, 1847—Feb. 18, 1926), W. H. (Bud), a brother (April 4, 1849—Nov. 12, 1919) were other members of the family.

Oct. 13. J. L. Pratt and W. A. Carlisle take options on Woodward Falls, a Coosawattee river power-dam site prospect 12 miles southwest of Ellijay.

Nov. 7. Gilmer goes for Woodrow Wilson again.

Nov. 29. Ben S. Holden dies. He was born Sept. 9, 1861. He is survived by a widow, who was Miss Dollie England; and two daughters, who are now Mrs. Frances Morrison and Mrs. Ruth Lundy. A third daughter, Bennie Lee (born Feb. 25, 1895), died Oct. 14, 1911.

In his time Mr. Holden was a federal employee, teacher and business man in several capacities. He once owned and edited the Blue Ridge Post. For 12 years he was cashier of the Gilmer County Bank. He was also active and potent in establishing telephone service in Ellijay and the county at large. Of a fine, human, sympathetic, understanding spirit, he was a citizen of decided superiority.

Dec. 22. The Bank of Ellijay increases deposits $20,000 over last year.

This year Ellijay reportedly still had two livery stables and three blacksmith shops.

1917

Mrs. Minerva Mulkey, born 1836, dies. This was Feb. 1.

Feb. 3. Bitter cold prevails; severest since 1899; two to twelve degrees below zero; heavy snow and ice. Mont Smith loses, from its effects, 47 sheep (mostly lambs) out of a flock of 110, although all were sheltered in a good barn.

Feb. 9. Thomas Washington Tabor, born May 26, 1833, in Macon county, North Carolina, dies in Cartecay district. When a young man, Mr. Tabor moved to the old Wikle farm in Cartecay. Early in the Civil War he enlisted in Captain Brown's Company, 39th Regiment, at Ellijay, and served through the war. He was the only man in his company left. He lost a brother, Jonathon, in the same conflict.

On March 14, 1872, he married Miss Anna Cole. Children were: Charles C., Homer C. (died in childhood), Mesdames Samuel West, L. U. Martin, Frank Haigler. Mr. Tabor represented a very superior order of citizenship. People of his substantial quality saved our pioneer life from barbarism.

Feb. 15. John Russell, Confederate veteran, born in Rabun county in 1830, dies in Ball Ground district. He entered Gilmer when he was a mere boy.

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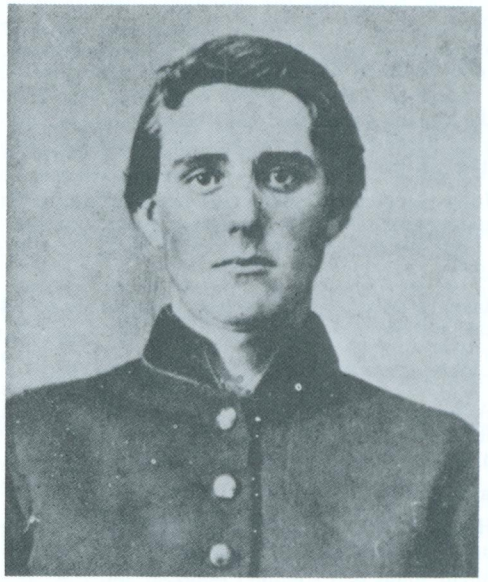


HENRY WEAVER

B

MRS. HENRY WEAVER

Feb. 23. Agitation begins for abandonment of the primitive methods of maintenance of public roads and the adoption, instead, of a special tax. This was one of the early and most necessary steps to road improvement. By the old haphazard method, road work was performed by male citizens over 16 and was shifted about among foremen who may have had neither training nor experience (not to mention equipment) for the work. Under the new method, choice of the competent to take charge of road work was encouraged, as was the effort to gain competence in directing the work. Gradually the way appeared for the use of more and better equipment.

March 30. John Hunnicutt, Confederate veteran, tanner, wit and philosopher, dies at Ellijay at the age of 79. He was born April 3, 1838. His wife, former Matilda Foster, sister to Bud Foster, was born April 11, 1843, and lived until December 25, 1932.

April 6. Gilmer County, with characteristic mountain stolidity, receives news of the nation's declaration of war on Germany. The German people had many admirers and friends among our individualistic natives, who still refused to concede that such a war was, by any means, fully justified.

April 10. A Knoxville, Tennessee, booster train is greeted at Ellijay by hundreds of Gilmer citizens. Knoxville has always, since the first days of rail connection, been commercially and personally close to Gilmer people.

April 20. James Griggs dies suddenly at 82.

April 21. Henry Weaver, 71, dies at Ellijay. Mr. Weaver was born and raised in Diamond district. He was a citizen of numerous commendable characteristics.

He is survived by his widow, who was Eliza Akins. To the couple were born eight children: J. L., Ben, McKinley; Mesdames Millie Davis, J. B. Hipp, J. M. Garrett, R. N. Holden, Junie Greenway. These descendants show an average of the better traits of citizenship that is rare in any county.

Mr. Weaver was a Union veteran of the Civil War. He was buried at New Liberty Baptist Church cemetery, with Rev. W. I. McVey conducting the funeral. Mrs. Weaver was profoundly religious.

April 27. Dyke, Yukon, Snider, Oak Hill post offices having all been discontinued, their various patrons are supplied with mail by Cartecay rural route one.

May 25. The Ellijay Five and Ten Cent store is one of Gilmer's most generous advertisers.

June 1. A list of the registrars for listing men subject to military service under the national conscription law is here presented followed by the districts they serve.

F. E. Pettit, C. N. Walker	Ellijay
Arch McClure	Alto
W. H. Weaver	Bucktown
W. L. Plemmons	Boardtown
John P. Evans	Ball Ground
S. F. Pettit	Cartecay
J. S. Smith	Cherry Log
J. W. Hensley	Coosawattee
W. H. Ellis	Diamond
Gordon Goble	Leaches
J. B. Dover	Mountaintown
P. G. Hyatt	Ridgeway

C. H. Sanford	Tails Creek
R. N. Holden	Town Creek
A. L. Kimsey	Tickanetley

June 5. Registration day for men subject to conscription for military service.

June 8. Gilmer has 442 miles of public roads.

Gilmer has already contributed 38 families to Wayne county alone. And these migrants are generally recognized in their new home as the better, more prosperous type of citizenship. For they went there as workers, wealth producers, not as parasites and exploiters.

June 11. Charlie Welch dies of a reportedly accidental pistol discharge at Ellijay.

July 6. J. L. Weaver, R. L. Milton, E. W. Watkins Jr. are appointed to membership on the local draft board for the selection of soldiers for the prosecution of World War I.

July 26-7. A well planned and conducted convention of the whole County's Sunday schools meets at the Ellijay Institute.

June 29. T. H. Tabor is granted a patent on a self-setting animal trap.

July 31. Richard Kell, age 82, dies. This long-lived family is one of Gilmer's most truly pioneer type.

Sept. 17. L. B. Greer, son of Levi M. Greer, dies at his home in Stone Mountain after 27 years in government service.

Sept. 21. Mrs. W. A. Cook becomes Gilmer's first home demonstration agent.

Sept. 28. Gilmer joins the nation in collecting "idle" books for soldier camps.

Nov. 4. Mrs. J. I. Jarrett dies at the home of her son, D. T. Jarrett.

Nov. 28. William Charles Bowen, soldier, dies at Camp Wheeler.

Dec. 7. The iron works at East Ellijay are operating, and adding hands.

Dec. 12. Heavy snows, beginning now, are general in the County, and this kind of weather prevails the rest of the year, which closes with heavy snow still on the ground. This proves a bitter winter.

Dec. 21. J. S. Hudson is appointed food administrator for the County. Gilmer completes its quota of the first army draft.

Dec. 28. The State Council of Defense appoints for Gilmer County A. H. Burtz, chairman; J. S. Hudson, Horace M. Ellington, and Miss Mary Tankersley.

In 1917 our annual output of lumber is estimated at 10 million superficial feet.

Gilmer sells $200,000 worth of apples this year.

1918

Jan. 1. The alternative road law goes into effect. This permits men to pay a tax in lieu of personal service in the upkeep of public roads.

Jan. 7. Thomas Calvin Hensley, of excellent report, having died in the army, is interred back home.

Jan. 13. Another big snow, followed by weather four degrees below zero, arrives. Late in the month Liclog reports seven below. Mail service, on account of ice and frozen snow and slush, is badly disrupted or wholly suspended. Train service is also hampered.

Jan. 25. The Western Union Telegraph Company now occupies new quarters in the Powell building.

Feb. 1. The Local (War) Board has finished classifying registered men.

Feb. 2. A Gilmer County Council of Defense is organized.

Feb. 5. The Gilmer County chapter of the National Red Cross is organized and 65 members enrolled at once. On February 22 a full list of its membership is published. On April 8 a work room is opened over Weaver & Garrett's store room. The chapter also has use of J. S. Hudson's office. Women are invited to come and work in behalf of the soldiers. Mrs. W. A. Allen is chairman of the woman's work. A Junior Red Cross is also organized. On May 8 a complete organization is published.

February 18.
Food administrator J. S. Hudson explains national food regulations.

April 11.
Snow falls on green leaves and early garden truck.

April 19.
Fuel administrator, Dr. J. S. Tankersley, urges the County to economize on coal and to reserve all possible storage and shipping space for defense.

April 24.
McHan Hotel, near Ellijay railroad station, is destroyed by fire.

April 26.
Ellijay holds a Liberty Bond rally, with music by Camp Gordon band. Lieutenant Frederick and W. J. Reedland speak. Gilmer oversubscribes its $14,000 quota by $8,000.

May 3.
Alfred W. Shepherd dies. Surviving are a widow and sons, W. H., Lum, James; and daughters, Mesdames Alonzo Wright, Della Kell, Nancy Mathis, and Miss Ida Shepherd.

May 12.
Dr. Winslow Smith of Jacksonville, Florida, back to his old home for the first time in thirty-three years, dies suddenly at Ellijay.

May 18.
Personal letters from soldier boys in France and other military fields have prominent places in the home paper and help, as usual, to sustain morale.

May 31.
Gilmer reports her quota of the Liberty Loan nearly doubled and the Red Cross over-subscribed.

June 5.
Forty-eight young men who have become 21 within the last year are enrolled for possible military duty.

July 12.
J. W. Clayton (not native John W.) installs a steam shovel and washing outfit at his iron mine a mile east of Ellijay.

Liberty Bond, Thrift Stamp sales and Red Cross district quotas go briskly forward. Gilmer is assigned nearly $200,000 in the War Savings Stamp campaign—Ellijay district alone $30,000. Cartecay district is first to subscribe its quota. East Ellijay school district makes an exceptional showing. Gilmer's per capita response proves to be the best among many counties.

July 13.
Mrs. Mary D. Holt, widow of John L. Holt and mother of Mrs. Sophia Briant and R. H., W. L., and J. C. Holt, dies.

August 16.
Richard L. Parks is reported killed in battle in France.

August 30.
Dr. A. W. Lamar becomes socially and religiously identified with Ellijay and Gilmer at large.

September 5-7.
Horse Swapper and Fiddlers Convention, in interest of Red Cross, is held at Ellijay. John Carson, Allen Sisson, and a dozen violinist Indians are present. Land Norris wins a banjo. Harris, Carson, Hensley win cash prizes. Fiddling Jack Williams promotes the contest.

September 15.
Louis Emil Scharlach dies. Mr. Scharlach was born in London, England, October 24, 1893, and migrated to America (Philadelphia), November 21, 1910. In March 1915, he came to Ellijay to accept employment with the Shippen Brothers Lumber Co., with which firm he subsequently became prominently identified. On August 5, 1917, he married Miss Margaret R. Holt of Ellijay. He leaves a widow and an infant son, Louis.

September 27.
A new post office called Teem is established two miles from Yukon.

October 4.
Teasley Davis is reported killed in action in France.

October 9.
Gilmer has almost attained her full quota of $21,650 in the Fourth Liberty Loan. A war relic train aids in the drive.

October 16.
Leonard Fendley, soldier, dies, and is buried in France.

October 18.
An influenza epidemic threatens and circuit court is postponed to avoid spreading the disease.

October 20.
Rev. Joe Chastain dies in his 89th year. Native of Habersham County, he came to Gilmer in early life. His father was Jonathon Chastain, who gave the land on which Ebenezer Baptist Church stands. Three times married, he raised one doctor from each union. One son was a minister. He is survived by a widow, Millie, and five children, Rev. Joseph M., Dr., J. B., Dr. W. C., Mrs. Havanna Anderson, Gillespie. Dr. W. M. Chastain, deceased, of Kansas, was the only child of the second marriage. Rev. Joseph Chastain was a nephew of Congressman Elijah W. Chastain; a minister 65 years, he was also variously ordinary, representative and senator from Gilmer.

Nov. 11. Frank Holt, son of Western, grandson of John, dies on Armistice day. He was a World War I soldier, born Jan. 17, 1891.

Dec. 3. Lewis Simmons dies in a military camp, Lake Charles, Louisiana, and on Dec. 6 is interred in Cartecay cemetery.

The Red Cross, under Mrs. W. A. Allen, chairman, reports generous labors for soldiers. Two worker members, Mrs. Ann Holden, 80, and Mrs. J. E. Tabor, 91, having a part.

The year scored an increase of taxable property values of $26,207 over 1917.

1919

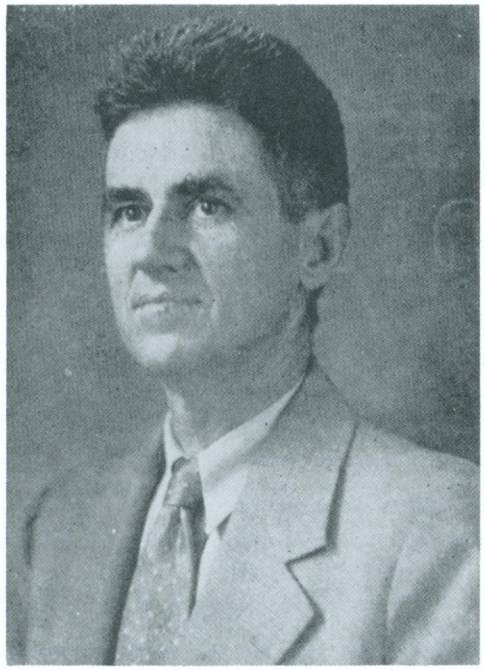
Jan. 1. The vital statistics law (spurred by the World War), requiring a registration of all births and deaths becomes operative. This law is not only of much value in the social order of the state and nation at large, but it also promotes the dependability of school and historical records.

January 24.
Mayor Clark Ray of Ellijay employs F. C. Cavender to survey and draw plans for a proposed road from the courthouse to the railroad depot.

February 14.
O. Glenn Ray is appointed Judge Advocate of a military court.

April 19.
Ellijay votes to levy special taxes for educational purposes.

April 26.
Ellijay votes $8,000 street improvement bonds. The Women spread dinner and cheer at the polls. Only two persons oppose bonds.



CLARK RAY

Atlanta attorney and former Gilmer resident and one-time mayor of Ellijay, gave hearty support to the first "demonstration" stretch of paved road.

May 16.
Clark Ray becomes chairman of the Salvation Army National Campaign, May 19-26.

May 30.
R. M. Edge, in returning to the editorship of the Ellijay Times-Courier, recounts some of his travels, while in the army, in different lands.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Clayton move their residence to Atlanta. Mr. Clayton spent two years at Ellijay operating an iron mine near East Ellijay till the close of the World War.

June 19.
A good roads booster meeting at the Hotel Hyatt, Ellijay, favors 4,800 miles of new county-seat-to-county seat roads built and maintained by the State.

June 20.
Dr. A. W. Lamar, Baptist pastor at Ellijay, is active in Sunday School training as well as pastoral work in general, and also initiates Boy Scout work.

Miss Mary Tankersley, chairman of the Home Service of the Red Cross, procures a nurse and trains groups in the care of the sick.

July 3.
Cleve Stover is accidentally killed while on a squirrel hunt.

July 4.
Gilmer receives $1,478 from the Georgia Automobile License fund.

July 25.
Plans develop for an electric light plant for Ellijay, and stock has already been subscribed to the amount of $3,600.

August 1.
J. W. Clayton announces plans for reopening the iron mines near East Ellijay.

August 15.
Ella Gap post office is discontinued and its patrons served by rural route 3.

August 19.
Citizens of Ellijay raise $3,000, in addition to $8,000 already provided, to complete a highway from the Gilmer courthouse to Ellijay L & N railroad station; and, also, they organize the Gilmer County Highway Association, J. C. Allen, Chairman; J. L. Weaver, secretary.

October 1.
Thomas F. Greer, 79, Confederate veteran, former Solicitor General of the Blue Ridge Circuit, dies at Ellijay.

October 16.
Home-coming Day for Gilmer men who served in the World War is observed.

October 24.
The Ellijay Light, Water, and Power Company completes a contract for the installation of electric lights and expects, within a month, to have them operating.

November 10.
O. L. Searcey, prominent citizen and Confederate veteran of Cherry Log, dies.

November 14.
The wholesome lessons learned at home in the World War persist in an active and practical sewing club among the women of Ellijay.

November 18.
A $75,000 road bond election, set for December 16, 1919, is postponed to give its friends more time to boost it.

November 19.
Ellijay has electric lights for the first time.

December 5.
The Ellijay Times-Courier is publishing the new compulsory school laws of Georgia.

Frank Ellington, native, becomes assistant editor of the Baker's Trade Journal of New York.

The editor of the Times-Courier, in December, makes a profound observation: "there is enough idle water power in Gilmer County to turn every wheel in Georgia."

1920

January 2. (Friday)
The first airplane ever recorded to have flown over Gilmer passes north to south without landing.

January 17.
Miss Mary Tankersley, variously and prominently connected with humanitarian and religious enterprise, and once editor of the Ellijay Times, dies. She was born October 28, 1868. At one time she taught, and always remained the friend and helper of youth.

Miss Tankersley was the daughter of Lemuel Tankersley. She had brothers, John Henry, James S., Nicholas L., George, and was related to several other families of the same name.

January 23.
The Ellijay Light and Power Company is organized at Ellijay.

February 5.
The Ellijay Five and Ten Cent Store continues a liberal advertiser.

February 18.
J. L. Allen, born April 12, 1851, dies near White Path.

Influenza cases mount to 100, with four deaths, in Ellijay. Rural districts generally are stricken.

March 5.
Clem McHan purchases the historic old Mountainview Hotel lot and projects a brick garage on it.

March 8.
Ellijay Council lifts the ban, which was issued for the prevention of influenza, against public gatherings. School, after three weeks suspension, opens. Churches are to reopen March 14.

March 19.
Influenza is raging. Many schools and other public meetings suspend or are much depleted and handicapped.

March 26.
Ellijay militia district, records disclose, pays a little over one-third of the taxes of Gilmer County.

Sale of the J. T. McHan home and grocery company to M. I. Teem is announced. R. C. McHan, relieved from connection therewith, will devote his entire time to the automobile business.

April 2.
The Ford Motor Company plows with a tractor the old Simmons bottom field to demonstrate to farmers the efficiency of Ford tractors.

April 4.
Mrs. Annie E. Craigo, landmark of the region, pioneer, age 92, dies at the home of her son, Tom Craigo. She was born in North Carolina. Before the Civil war she was left a widow with several small children to raise. For more than fifty years Mrs. Craigo was a member of the Methodist Church and one of its warmest, most loyal adherents.

April 5.
Mrs. Mary A. James dies.

May 19.
Ellijay has an "everybody-work-on-the-streets" day, a fine promoter of democracy and self-help. Those who do not voluntarily join the workers are requested to pay $2.50.

May 21.
Business flourishes about East Ellijay (one mile east of Ellijay, and "around the mountain and out of sight"). "We hear the whistle of sawmills, and the ore mines are running regularly."

May 23.
A B. Y. P. U. is reorganized at the First Baptist Church of Ellijay. This work later suspended, but revived in September 1923, and has flourished since, becoming one of the conspicuously successful Christian training groups of the County.

June 18.
The Ellijay Times-Courier keeps up a persistent campaign for road bonds.

June 25.
Census returns show a population decrease, for Ellijay, of four percent, and, for the County as a whole, of nine. The Ellijay Times-Courier attributes the decline mainly to bad roads, poor schools and "blockade" liquor.

July 2.
Mrs. Mary Simmons, mother of L. M. and W. A. Simmons, dies at 87.

July 9.
Ella Gap post office is reestablished.

August 2.
Mrs. T. J. Long dies.

August 23.
The remains of Jimmie D. Elliott, World War soldier, who died in France, arrive at Ellijay.

August 25.
Walter S. Coleman, of the Cedartown Standard, editor of the Ellijay Courier, 1885-90, visits Ellijay. After disposing of his interests in the Courier, Mr. Coleman went to Cedartown and entered the newspaper business again.

August 27.
A U. S. Army recruiting station is established in Ellijay.

September 6.
R. V. Kelley, father of C. B. and W. A. Kelley and Mrs. Lula Bryant of Ellijay, dies at his home near Talking Rock. He was a native of Rabun County, but came to Pickens County with his father when he was a small boy.

October 1.

The State Highway Department is in charge of the finishing of the road from the courthouse to the depot at Ellijay. Negro laborers have been imported.

Teem post office is discontinued.

October 18.

Waldo Kirby dies in Constantinople, Turkey. His body, however, does not arrive in Ellijay till January 8, 1921.

November 2.

Harding, for President, carries Gilmer.

November 5.

A banquet at Hotel Hyatt, in honor of members of the State Highway Department, celebrates the completion of a paved road of half a mile length from Gilmer County courthouse to Ellijay railroad station.

Summary and Recollections

This was a critical time in world affairs as well as in Gilmer. For it contained the period of the first World War and readjustments following. It may be said to have opened fairly hopeful and prosperous. It saw prolonged the operation of iron mines at East Ellijay and continued work at the nearby lumber mills. Several murder cases attracted considerable attention in the courts.

W. H. Allen, disapproving of some of the county board of education's methods, resigned his position of county school superintendent. Of his quality and fitness for his office we have elsewhere spoken. He was succeeded, in 1911, by J. S. Hudson.

This period saw a renewed impetus toward higher education. Perhaps the late period of traveling and the wide upheavals of war caused our people to see more clearly the need for such steps. Gilmer's representation in Berry and other schools and colleges was, on the whole, strong and capable. It is a sort of Gilmer County tradition that its contribution to college groups stand well. Perhaps this is true because those of us who take advanced training want and appreciate it. We are seldom in that class that is "sent" to college.

During this period Ellijay and Gilmer County as a whole interested themselves in summer chautauquas. Some of the best programs of music, speaking and acting ever enjoyed by their people came with these. The big tent was pitched right in the public square. One of the greatest treats was a quartet of Swiss yodlers. One of the best seasons of chautauqua programs was that of 1915.

On July 14, 1911, occurred the death of Charles Roscoe Allen. He was a master of the English language and had a genius for its clear, beautiful and effective use. He is mentioned and honored elsewhere. We also carry his appeal to the honor of Gilmer voters, Sept. 22, 1904.

White Path Hotel was still active, though doubtless much declined from its peak of patronage of the late nineties.

Autoists were complaining of rough roads. The use of cars was spreading far faster than improved highways.

Other deaths of the year were those of J. C. Whisenant, who I believe, was a pioneer hatter and made his hats mainly of wool; J. E. Harper, Elizabeth Miller, Dr. James M. Bearden, W. J. Plumley, Harley P. Watkins, Miss Bennie Lee Holden, Mrs. Will Shippen, Rev. Jonathon F. M. West, and others.

H. M. Anderson, mayor of Ellijay, stood for moral tone as well as improved sidewalks.

More mail routes radiated from Ellijay.

Shippen Brothers added a lumber plant.

The Woman's Club, substantial in its lead for the social and artistic betterment of Ellijay, was, as usual, busy and effective in both word and deed.

Alonzo DeBorde, having learned paper manufacture at Canton, North Carolina, moved to Lincoln, New Hampshire, for further successful work along the same line.

Convict hire ceased and cut off a source of County income.

Among the bridges, besides Owltown, built under T. H. Tabor, ordinary, were Edmondson, Swann, McHan, Ross, Gudger, Charles, Kell.

W. F. Slagle of Calhoun purchased the Ellijay property of T. H. Tabor and divided it into building lots.

The political faction headed by Bart Cox was reported, in the fall of 1912, as (with the exception of senator) in power.

Jack Parrish died in Ridgeway at the reputed age of 113.

That year Dr. N. C. Goss moved to Ellijay.

The old Creamery near Ellijay depot was razed.

Vaudeville and moving pictures were presented at Ellijay.

Election returns for circuit judge were contested.

The State Democratic Executive committee favored H. L. Patterson. In fact there was a general political turmoil at times. The "Mulberry Tree" at Ellijay was a symbol and rallying point for uncompromising adherents of "Democracy." Some professed Democrats, however, went ahead and ran for office independently or as coalition candidates. There was much disfranchising of voters.

Telephone lines were extended from Ellijay eastward into Cartecay, westward to Roosevelt and Tom Elder's store. The eastward extension was headed by John W. Clayton, inventor and orchardist, and went to his Mountainview apple orchards.

About the same time the federal government bought a tract of Gilmer land for water and forest reserve.

Under J. S. Hudson, Gilmer boys in the spring of 1912 formed a vigorous Boys Corn club. The winner of first prize was Garnett Jones of Dyke.

Moody Brothers of Cherokee county opened a leather working and repair place of a high order in Ellijay.

In 1913 talc mining was resumed at the Wishon place in Cherry Log district.

The Tennessee Copper Company arbitrated on disputed crop and timber damages to Gilmer County.

Dr. M. D. Clayton of Roy is on the staff of the State hospital at Milledgeville.

The 9th of July N. L. Tankersley succeeded H. M. Ellington as postmaster at Ellijay, and a new post office building was provided.

J. K. Pettit and Smith Ray are graduated from the Atlanta Medical college.

The market for sheep and cattle is steady. But cattle-tick infestation is hurting. For several years inspectors had labored to wipe it out. However, a Doctor Jones set to work, and by early spring of 1915, the County was able to announce itself released from federal quarantine.

On May 25 William DeFore, father of twenty children, dies.

The European War was heralded through the County with editorial predictions it would spread and become a world war. The conflict did not immediately affect Gilmer as it did cotton growing sections. Prices of lumber went down. Meats went up.

About August 20 a new railroad flag station is established at Ella Gap, four miles south of Ellijay.

Ellijay, profiting from its lesson from fire losses, swings into recovery by erecting new and better brick buildings.

In August, after a ten-year struggle between simon pure and coalition Democrats, the "Slick Tails" (coalition) seat their committee.

This meant the more conciliating element of Democracy would have charge of elections, and that all voters (including numerous Republicans) who agreed to "support the nominee" in the subsequent regular election might vote in Democratic primaries.

But on September 10th the simon pures won state Democratic recognition and once more assumed leadership in County affairs.

East Ellijay completed a new school building.

Ellijay, under Claude Watkins, mayor, did some excellent paving around the public square. The dispensers of illicit liquor, after fair warning, also felt the pressure of his hand.

October 15th, the County had 1,829 homes, 946 of which were owned by their occupants. Of this total, 376 were urban, the balance rural.

L. & N. Railroad trains, operating through the County, put on electric headlights.

In October, Ellijay post office was advanced to third class.

On October 31, Mrs. Mag Greer, widow of L. M. Greer and granddaughter of pioneer Rev. William Ellington, died.

John W. Clayton won first prize on his apple exhibit at the Georgia State Fair.

On November 12, Mrs. Nancy Corbin, pensioner for services her husband rendered in removing the Indians from Gilmer County, was buried.

Tioga post office was relocated and resumed its ancient name of Talona.

At the close of the year Mont Smith mixed an outgoing railroad freight car, miniature Noah's ark, with cattle, sheep, hogs, turkeys.

The Teem Wholesale Company started near Ellijay railroad station. On December 27, Herschel Teem, a member of the firm, held in high esteem, was buried.

William Bradley, having completed a course at the Atlanta School of Medicine, purposed to establish practice at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Claude Watkins, Ford agent, builds a garage, contrasting the new with the old by setting it up opposite Kelley's Livery stable. On May 20 it was said that Ellijay had 14 automobiles.

Mont Smith went to Cincinnati with a shipment of Gilmer cattle.

The Ellijay Marble Company doubles its output.

By early fall baseball clubs are springing up in rural districts.

November athletic winners at the Berry schools are Lester Parks, Lester Seay, Bill Seay.

On Sept. 2 T. H. Tabor transfers his White Path property to Sam Tate for a reported consideration of $6,000.

The labor situation is good. The Ducktown copper mining industry was absorbing surplus labor from the County.

In the Turniptown area, Gatlin post office was established about the middle of October. By the close of the year John Clonts had built a telephone line to it.

As 1916 neared the nation and its many minor units, including Gilmer, were getting better adjusted to the European war situation and were profiting in some respects by the peculiar demands of that situation, without being in any sense war "profiteers." Two years before cotton had been referred to as a "dead dog," but had picked up some during 1915. Now the situation looked hopeful for it and most of the other agricultural products of counties like Gilmer.

The region ran along bumpily and on a wavery keel, listening to European war talk and the possibilities and probabilities of the entrance of the United States into it. The propagandists against Germany were adroitly and assiduously spreading their subtle psychology of hate and war. These machinations, resulted, the April following, in a long awaited declaration of war against Germany.

The close of 1916 saw bitter weather, the early part of 1917 saw a lot of snow, ice, and difficulty in travel, and in the conduct of schools and business generally.

Fortunately, for this History, Honorable Clark Ray settled at Ellijay in July 1913, and remained till 1920. He has helped to restore this period, through much of which I was not in Georgia.

The Ellijay lumber plants, during the war period, continued operations.

Hog cholera, which had been so disastrous in the early 1900s, had been recurrent and running its course unchecked. It was now checked by a man named Duff, County Agent of Dawson County, through inoculation. This was the beginning of county agent work in Gilmer.

Boys clubs, under J. S. Hudson, went on with their work.

Most of the facts pertaining to the World war and Gilmer's participation in it appear under "War Records of the County."

High wages, high cotton and other outside financial inducements drew much labor and emigration from the County.

Gilmer bought war bonds during several brisk sales of these. It gave liberally to the Y. M. C. A. Leaders for this organization went from school to school and other points with their pleas. The Red Cross came in later, but got a response. The County also contributed to the Salvation Army.

James L. Weaver and Horace M. Ellington, assisted by Clark Ray and others, took prominent parts in forwarding the war program generally. Mr. Weaver was on the draft board for the selection of soldiery. Dr. E. W. Watkins Jr. was medical examiner.

The year 1917 and that part of 1918 following its close will long be remembered for their intense cold, snow, and ice. The thermometer, in unison with extreme and lower drops in northern regions of the United States generally, fell to eight and ten below zero. Rivers and ponds froze over. Snow lay on the north sides of mountains all through February 1918.

This season, already heavy with the gloom and uncertainty of the World War and the merciless cold, ice and snow brought an added calamity in the form of Spanish influenza, which might reasonably be compared to the ancient plagues. Many died. It returned in the early part of 1920, becoming so severe, in February, that Ellijay schools and churches closed.

The good roads movement has always had an enthusiastic group in Gilmer. At all times these persons have worked without compensation. And sometimes they have paid out of their own pockets to assist the cause. This was true in 1919 when the first move for paving had to be financed. Since as far back as 1913 the agitation had been growing. As the use of the automobile increased and the people observed, the movement took more definite and business-like form.

On August 22 the Gilmer Highway Association was launched. The time had ripened for a more substantial step.

And this consisted, the first part of the year 1919, at Ellijay, in an election for bonds with which to pave the road from the Gilmer County Courthouse, in the center of Ellijay, to the Ellijay railroad station. The distance was half a mile and the road was to be concrete. The State and federal government were to pay half the cost.

In October 1919, bidding on the job was opened. But, on account of the smallness of the undertaking, none of the larger, regular contractors would make a bid. A man named Pace, sent up to Ellijay and recommended by the State Highway Department, became overseer. During the fall of 1919 he put in curbs and sewers. Then he left for work elsewhere. Another man was procured in his place.

Machinery for quarrying and crushing stone for the road bed was set up near the Cobb Bridge. Stone about Drunkard Springs had been found so hard and tough it broke and battered up several drills. Whitestone had been rejected. The Cobb Bridge quarry, having been found workable and acceptable, was promptly attacked. The second contractor left, also, for more promising employment.

Finally A. H. Burtz agreed to take the completion of the road. He was to finish it at the cost estimated by the Georgia Highway Department. But this estimate was based on a presumption of a tendency toward lower cost of materials. But these really advanced. And the summer of 1920 near the road's completion, was excessively rainy. Technicalities retarded the project. The Georgia Highway Department increased its appropriation. Ellijay paid about $8,000. It was finally applied for as a County project, and action on this change was delayed at Washington because an unconditional contract and responsibility, on the County's part, for its financing was necessary. Finally full local responsibility for this project fell upon Ellijay.

The venture proved a loss to A. H. Burtz, but it forcibly demonstrates good roads. It paved the way, in both a literal and a figurative sense, for larger highway programs.

Another awesome, near total, eclipse of the sun came in June 1918. Weather for its observation was favorable.

By 1920 high cotton prices stimulated attempts to raise it in many cool valleys where it had never before been planted. Inflation also led to an orgy of unlawful production of alcoholic spirits, and to much greed, demoralization and corruption (corroding to the soul of the mountaineer) that did not subside for several years.

In 1919 Gilmer had an increase of tax returns of $26,207 over the year 1918.

Gilmer now faced, along with other communities, the problem and responsibility of reabsorbing the returning soldiers, and seems to have met the situation reasonably well.

A county-wide school tax, already passed, was being applied and teacher salaries and teaching conditions improved.

On November 20, 1919, Ellijay turned the electricity onto a street lighting system, howbeit weak and inefficient its chugging little Delco system.

Labor was much in demand and jobs often went begging.

It would be difficult to describe the spirit of 1921. People had felt the general drop in prices following the World Disillusion, and not a little bitterness was in the air. The bottom that fell out in 1929 started with seams in the financial fabric that kept spreading farther apart till the final collapse. It was a time of considerable movement of labor into the County as well as out of it.

The post-war adjustment to labor and market conditions was still fluid, perplexing, and far from complete.

Educational advantages, neglected or cut short during the high-wage period of the war, were being better sensed and appropriated. The wage Utopia of the war period was over. After the orgy of greed and carelessness people were sobering down to more proper perspective on moral tone and agencies such as churches, schools and honor in citizenship. These were veering around once more to the old navigation landmarks and stars.

Labor was still in brisk demand. Few people of any type were jobless. However, the close of 1920 had marked a thinning down of the ranks of employment from the peak of the preceding spring.

And 1921 did not bring improved conditions. We were beginning to think and plan what to do, in our little corner, and how once more to adjust the disjointed parts of our shaken social robot and get him going again. We were to live to realize that, if he struck his old stride, it would not be in the form and manner of the past days.

1921

Jan. 21. Jack Hensley dies.

S. G. Dover moves from Roosevelt to Ellijay. He and Cicero Logan set to repairing the old Harper and Scott warehouse in preparation for opening a store in it. This was the beginning of one of Ellijay's largest mercantile establishments.

Feb. 8. Dr. W. D. Wade dies, and is buried at Berean.

Feb. 15. P. H. Milton dies. Born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, he was among those who early moved on westward to Georgia and Gilmer county. He reached Gilmer while yet young. He was a former county official.

At the beginning of the Civil War he volunteered to serve in the First Georgia Regiment.

He is survived by sons, William F., John E., Robert L.; and daughters, Mrs. Emma Buffington, Mrs. Ida Holt, Mrs. Irene Shepherd, Mrs. Effie Foster. Other mention of Mr. Milton will be found in the alphabetically arranged list of Gilmer citizens.

May 26. The body of Veteran Teasley Davis, killed in action in France, arrives.

July 6. The County election held to determine whether livestock should go under fence or be turned at large to roam and feed as they willed results in—fences, or the old status quo (for the present). Everybody is still obliged to fence such of his premises as he wished protected from roaming herds.

July 25. Fire at Lucius station destroys a store and the home of Haskin Chancey and 25,000 feet of lumber belonging to A. H. Burtz.

July 29. Sentiment in favor of a $100,000 road-bond issue improves.

Aug. 5. Ira Cochran, killed in France in 1917, is buried in Gilmer.

Aug. 19. Telephone service in the County improves.

Oct. 5. Dow Hambrick begins employment at the Bank of Ellijay, and continued with the bank until Jan. 1, 1963, when he retired.

The Teem Wholesale Company has projected a branch store to be located at Marietta, Georgia.

Oct. 21. Claude Southern is killed, Bert McCoy is fatally injured, and S. L. Davis suffers a broken leg at an L & N railroad crossing in Bartow county.

Nov. 1. James Hill dies.

Nov. 6. Mrs. Jane Esther Tabor, widow of N. T. Tabor, dies.

Ellijay has a homecoming day for returned soldiers.

Dec. 10. Mrs. E. B. Shope dies at Oglesby, Texas. Mrs. Shope was the mother of Theron S. Shope, widely known and honored former citizen of Gilmer.

Dec. 13. John E. P. Smith, father of James Smith, State Warden, dies.

The move for completing a modern highway from Atlanta to Knoxville, Tennessee, by way of Ellijay, gains force.

1922

Jan. 4. Z. T. (Zachary Taylor) Crawford, a former prosperous citizen and man of affairs in the County, dies at the age of 74. Mr. Crawford was the friend of education. He was nurseryman, orchardist, deft in working wood and forceful in operating mills. Mr. Crawford was a power in Democratic political circles.

Jan. 6. The Bank of Ellijay becomes a state depository.

Feb. 1. Fate Roberts, who bore the name of a prominent white pioneer family, a Negro citizen of good repute with both white and black, and a leader with the small band of Gilmer black folk, is foully murdered and robbed.

Clarence Allen, Gilmer native, conductor on an L & N freight train, scrambles his freight cars a mile north of Ellijay but without fatalities.

Ellijay, largely to combat idleness and crime (its outgrowth), establishes a workhouse for those who will not work otherwise.

Will H. Shippen moves back from Marietta to Ellijay.

In May Dr. St. Joseph B. Graham, who in 1909 established a sanitarium in Ellijay, dies in Atlanta.

May 29. The Gilmer County Development association, James L. Weaver, president, and George G. Ward (who came, the first of the year, from Atlanta to become a citizen of Gilmer again), secretary, is formed at Ellijay.

June 16. W. H. Gudger loses by fire his merchant, grist and saw mills on Mountaintown creek. This combined outlay represented an original investment of $7,500 and was built by the Osborn family.

J. K. Holt, son of Mrs. Mary Holt of East Ellijay, rescues two boys from drowning at Copper Hill.

June 28. L. M. (Mel) Simmons, once Gilmer's county school commissioner and otherwise an honored citizen, dies in Cartecay district at 69.

Mrs. Amanda McArthur, widow of Morgan McArthur, born in 1830, dies.

June 30. Gilmer protests the lack once more of a telegraph office for the use of the public.

July 5. Gilmer votes on stock law and goes again for enforced fences.

July 22. A temporary radio station is established at Ellijay post office by Willard and Hope Davis, Atlanta boys and nephews of postmaster James L. Weaver. Ball game results "come in distinctly."

Aug. 11. Taxable values of the County fall off more than $150,000.

Aug. 18. W. H. Shippen is appointed receiver for the Shippen Brothers Lumber Company.

Rural telephone service is again extended.

Aug. 25. Rev. J. E. Tallant, who for five years taught at the old Ellijay Seminary, and has not been back since 1893, visits the scenes of his former labors and speaks in Ellijay. He is still active pastoring a Methodist church in Buffalo, New York, and still displays force and vigor.

Aug. 30. Mrs. Carroll Crook Rogers, wife of Julius Rogers, and mother of Clark and Vera Mae Rogers, dies.

Sept. 8. The people of Gilmer reveal individuality and thrift as demonstrated by deposits at the Bank of Ellijay of $225,000.

Oct. 20. A Mr. Fincher of Canton completes some substantial highway improvement in Ellijay and through the County. He has employed three 10-ton caterpillar tractors of 75 horsepower and one large Russell scrape, one powerful Adams scrape and an effective scarifier, and other trucks and a camping outfit of cars.

November 10.
John T. Dorsey and associates seek to incorporate themselves in Gilmer County as "The End of the World." Later some fellows stole ducks from the End of the World, and got caught.

November 13.
Rev. T. H. Triplett, born in 1850, dies in Atlanta and is buried with Masonic honors in Westview Cemetery. Triplett was brought up in Gilmer and is related to the Davises, Davenports and Hipps of Gilmer. For eight years he was postmaster at Dalton, and, for a time, presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was also deputy collector of internal revenue, and at one time lived in Knoxville, Tennessee. More recently he had lived in Atlanta, and been connected with the Keely Dry Goods Company. He was a scholar, an able preacher, a poet and courteous gentleman whose colorful career contains much of human interest and not a little inspiration. Around 1875 he was the most vital, forceful and eloquent of men in his old home County.

November 17.
The Woodmont Orchards Company of Rockingham County, New Hampshire, purchases the Northcutt orchard area of 258 acres.

November 18.

Sam P. Holt, son of Osborn Holt, pioneer, dies at 82. Uncles were Elijah and Seaborn Holt. He was one of sixteen children. Mr. Holt was large, of commanding appearance and remarkable vitality; hospitable and musical. He loved the old-time fiddle tunes and dances. Born July 18, 1840, he was buried in the Holt cemetery near his childhood home. His epitaph says

Through the Lord's unbounded love
We'll meet again in realms above.

His wife's name was Josie. Children, Weldon, Verney, Lula, Haley, Nora, Emma, Augusta.

December 1.

Benjamin C. Charles, son of Rev. Jesse Charles, dies at 81.

Lumber quotations fall off from 1921 forty percent; from 1920 probably more.

1923

In 1923 Miss Helen Parker started a hopeful home demonstration work. Winter roads were still too rough and slippery for Miss Parker's little Ford. She was deeply depressed at times. She soon resigned, and Miss Winnie Holden, a native, assumed the duties of the office.

In this same period Ellijay attains the dignity of having its own moving picture theater managed by Dow Hamrick and Clem McHan. The happy and witty combination of parts of the names of the owners proves a prize-winning name for it. The name "McDow," suggested by Miss Susie Northcutt, later Mrs. Truman Dobbs, stuck. Picture exhibitions were three times a week. But the McDow, though tidy and well equipped and managed was never a paying venture.

White Path has a Fourth of July barbecue and dance.

The autumn of this year brings Gilmer's last heavy crop of wild chestnuts.

Still another stock law election for open range.

Over 7,000 bushels of apples are produced on two orchards belonging to J. S. Hudson and J. W. Clayton.

Tax collections are good.

The bank of Ellijay has a healthy increase in assets.

1924

The year opens with severe cold. Before the end of January it dropped to five degrees below zero at Ellijay. But Ellijay, being one of the lowest populated points in Gilmer, never represents the severe cold of the County's higher regions. Ice skating occurs on Shippen millpond, and big fine fish, benumbed by the cold, could be picked up as they were stranded on a huge gravel deposit in the Cartecay river. They went over the milldam safely but the whole stream shot into the great gravel bank and left the fish gasping. Gilmer still traveled slippery, muddy, frozen roads. The only "improved" highway was that north and south. And it, often enough, was impassable.

Rev. Henry W. F. Freeman, Confederate veteran and for 40 years a Baptist minister, rich in his knowledge of the Bible and the ability to quote it aptly, dies, and is buried February 19. His prayers and addresses during periods of worship were impressively enforced and flavored with scripture quotes.

This spring Dr. George Banks of Pinelog renew his acquaintance with Gilmer, his old home.

A. L. Potter, apiarist, dies. Mr. Potter kept bees where the Ellijay store is now in Mountaintown district. From this vantage his bees could feed into the Cohutta mountain honey flow. He is remembered to have placed on the market much fine honey.

March 9. Dr. Edward W. Watkins Senior dies at his home in Ellijay. He is survived by his widow, who was Miss Georgia Butt, born June 18, 1846, and dying January 27, 1929.

Dr. Watkins himself was born Sept. 25, 1839, on his father's farm "near Commerce." He spent his boyhood in that locality. When he was 23, he enlisted in the Confederate army and was commissioned a first lieutenant. He was assigned to duty with the Sixth Georgia Cavalry. He served four years under Gen. Joseph Wheeler.

DR. E. W. WATKINS, SR.

After the war he moved to Blairsville, Ga., where he met Miss Georgia Butt. The two were married Jan. 26, 1866. Mr. Watkins taught school in Union county for a time, then entered the Cincinnati Medical college, from which he was graduated in June 1869. He first practiced his profession at Blairsville. He later located at Morganton. In 1872 he came to Ellijay, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Other survivors of Dr. Watkins were Edward Junior, E. C., C. G. Claude G. became an automobile dealer in Brighton, Colorado. Prominent in political life,

he was active widely otherwise in his adopted state. E. C., another son, spent considerable of his active life at Brooklet, Ga., in the practice of medicine. And an only daughter, who became the wife of L. G. Edwards, was Estelle. She died Sept. 2, 1910. Mr. Edwards, merchant and realtor, lived until March 17, 1916. The couple left a son, Watkins Edwards, now a resident of Atlanta.

Dr. Watkins Sr. served in the Georgia legislature 1884 to 1885, 1896-97, 1898-99. His interests included farming. He was a member of the M. E. Church, south. The present church of the united Methodist congregation in Ellijay is named in honor of his family. He served his church as a steward. He was the second superintendent of our educational system.

On March 26 Dr. N. P. Pratt and George L. Pratt discuss with Gilmer guests at Hotel Hyatt, Ellijay, the prospects and advantages of a power dam at Goble Gorge on the Coosawattee river, a point with potential power development of 45,000 horsepower. The Pratts, with a view to power projects, began buying lands in this vicinity in 1909.

A youth named Grady Allen proves himself apt at the new business of installing radios in Gilmer. Lon Fowler was good at this too.

The presidential primary of March goes for William G. McAdoo.

B. F. Ellington, of a pioneer family, dies.

A. E. Edwards is shipping dogwood shuttle blocks to Westminster, South Carolina, and Lawrence, Massachusetts.

On May 30, 1924, Sam Penland, member of the Georgia legislature, makes the important proposal for the appointment of a commissioner of roads and revenues for Gilmer. On the 11th of the following July, J. S. Hudson is appointed. By late August he is finding an energetic stride in his new capacity. By the close of October he is applying road machines.

The Men's Cooperative association is meeting.

F. S. Cantrell, Gilmer student, becomes business manager of Mercer University's annual, "The Cauldron." He did a fine work in this capacity. He later removed to Delaware, where he became well known for the quality of his work, also.

The 22nd of April Rev. A. J. Hutchison, once a Gilmer figure, dies in Dalton, Ga.

Many eggs are being sent out by parcel post, and cabbage is pronounced the County's best agricultural possibility.

On July 1 of this year J. W. Clayton begins shipping Early Harvest and Red Astrachan apples. He has shipped apples as early as June 5.

July 2. The law favoring no fences in the County finally wins.

Aug. 1. Ordinary R. J. Goble plans for a new modern highway south of Ellijay, connecting the community with Atlanta.

Aug. 9. An auction disposes of 234 acres of the Bart Cox estate, a portion of the W. R. Cox estate, and some land belonging to J. A. Ray.

Gilmer's population is announced, August 15, as 8,406. More than 99 percent of these are white; school age children are 2,951.

Late in October M. C. King Jr. of Copper Hill, Tennessee, and R. C. McHan of Ellijay begin the construction of a small power dam on Kell creek more than three miles north of Ellijay. The prolonged dry weather of next year rendered generation of enough electricity, by that time, impossible.

Nov. 4. Calvin Coolidge carries the County for president.

Sam Penland states he alone bought more than $5,000 worth of furs in 1923. Many other dealers ship furs by parcel post and otherwise.

WHITE PATH HOTEL

Front View

1925

Jan. 1. The new "stock law" goes into effect, ending free and open range for livestock.

This month the Shippen Lumber mills, after a shutdown, open again.

On March 6, W. H. Shippen, after an absence of some 10 years, once more takes charge of them.

The L & N railroad installs electric lights and other improvements in passenger coaches.

Feb. 17. White Path Hotel, built before the Civil War by William ("Old Bill") Dorn of Abbeville, South Carolina, and enlarged in 1886 by Marion Dorn, his nephew, to about 30 rooms, burns. It has been owned by three generations of Dorns and others, and has been but lately acquired by Garner and Gilkey of Marion, North Carolina.

The more thoughtful and ethical element of our people is deeply aroused, in the spring of 1925, at the discovery of an interrelation between bootlegging and automobile thefts.

By April 3, poles and wires for first-class electric service are being installed in Ellijay.

A new highway and an important bridge across Coosawattee river had been surveyed south of Ellijay. On June 16 work on the road is actually begun, and proceeds in great choking clouds of dust that sometimes utterly obscure the workers. The grading is in charge of R. L. Killian.

On April 12 water is turned into Kell creek dam; but, a drought being on, the volume of the stream is meager. A sudden halt or failure of electric genera-

tion frequently suspends its power facility at Ellijay. The city council there, in anticipation of steady current, on April 17, orders 20 street lights placed. And on April 19 dependable electricity comes into town.

May 1. Ellijay and the County combine in a barbecue and road-booster meeting which lasts two days, concluding on Kimsey mountain in Tennessee.

More than half the graduating class of Gilmer County High, by May 29, have applied for admission to college.

On May 30 the Gilmer County Development association is formed.

June 30. Henry M. Anderson of Ellijay dies. A Confederate veteran, father of Jesse Walter Anderson, World War I Captain, he was a citizen of many merits and few faults. Other surviving relatives are his widow and children, Miss Lula Anderson and Jack Anderson; Mesdames Lena Miller and Dora Sweeney.

The Woman's Club, the summer of 1925, requests the city of Ellijay to place trash cans about the streets of Ellijay, and the measure is enacted and put into effect.

This summer some fine Elberta peaches are shipped from the J. W. Clayton orchards. In fact, we have seen no Elbertas brought here quite as good as some we have seen growing in the County.

Chestnut blight and excessive drought combine to kill many of our once wonderful groves of wild chestnut. Some of our greatest giants of days gone by were chestnut trees.

In September, Ellijay is in its greatest religious revival, conducted by Rev. Frank Hampton at the city auditorium. By the 18th of the month more than 100 church additions have resulted. Sunday schools are much stimulated. On Sunday, September 20, an immersion is conducted by both Baptist and Methodist pastors and 84 persons are immersed in the Ellijay river. A number of those baptised are additions to Methodist churches who request this form of baptism.

Road Commissioner J. S. Hudson improves the road from Cherry Log up Rock Creek eastward. The road had long been neglected.

In October N. A. Pratt finishes a handsome 15-room home in Leaches district, and starts orchard operations there.

Patsy Blackwell, reputedly 108, dies December 6.

Dec. 8. Gilmer votes $100,000 in bonds for road improvement. This means an actual total available for such purposes of $400,000. The vote for bonds is 1,630 for, while only 22 oppose.

Rev. S. P. Brokaw visits from the state of Washington. He once taught in the Ellijay Seminary. He writes interestingly of his travels.

Dec. 28. R. W. Randell of Fort Myers, Florida, purchases White Path summer resort.

1926

In February 1926, low water resulting from continued drought forces the Ellijay Light and Power Company to restrict its supply of power to night uses.

Shippen Brothers expand their lumber production.

W. G. Wingate is appointed county agent but resigns September 1, 1927.

April 18. Samuel H. West, Confederate veteran, member of one of our

earliest white families, dies. He married Elizabeth Ann Cole, October 25, 1865. Surviving children are W. A., P. A., Samuel, J. C.

April 26. The death of Thomas Harley Tabor occurs at Gainesville. He was a son of Nathan T. and Jane Cumming Tabor. He was born May 10, 1855, in Gilmer County. On January 1, 1882, he married Miss Laura C. Cox. Mr. Tabor was educated at Oakland and Atlanta business schools. From 1906 to 1914 he served the County as ordinary, proving a progressive officer. He guarded and guided well the expenditure of public funds entrusted to his administration.

He edited, did historical research with a diligent hand, always championed education and the best traditions of social advance toward sound goals. His habits and manners were those of the well trained. His mind, naturally superior, relished and appropriated the best of what is improving, permanent.

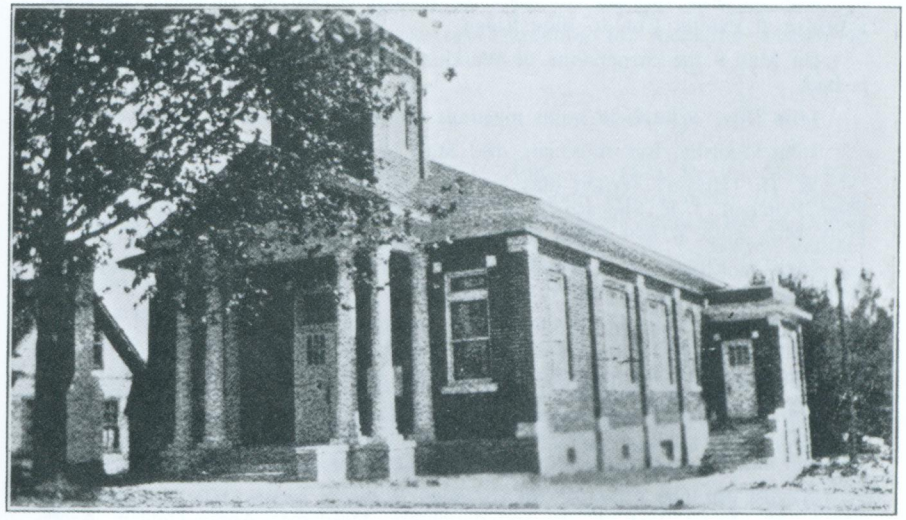
These relatives survive: his widow; a daughter, Mrs. J. H. Jackson; two sons, Fred C. and Herbert.

Credit is accorded Mr. Tabor elsewhere for his personal encouragement and part in the creation of this historical record.

In June progress on the highway north (by east) of Ellijay is marked, and need for Henry Grady Road is urged.

On July 30 tax returns for the County are up $250,000 over 1925.

Five million feet of lumber has accumulated on the yards of the Shippen Hardwood Lumber Company, and another two million is reported as in the woods.



WATKINS MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

Cornerstone of this church was laid May 9, 1927. But during the long history of this congregation, going back to Indian days, it has used several other houses of worship.

August 21. Tickanetley citizens meet to take steps toward rebuilding the telephone line from S. G. Clayton's to Caleb Weaver's in Bucktown.

On September 8, Gilmer begins the use of the Australian Ballot system.

Plans for surfacing the highway south of Ellijay are projected.

November 26. W. G. Wingate purchases from John W. Clayton the famous Mountainview Apple Orchards.

Osborn Brothers, Pan-Am, Tankersley Brothers, Central Pharmacy, Dobbs and Quarles, the Bank of Ellijay, Dover and Logan, O. P. Milton advertise liberally.

Col. A. H. Burtz sells his sawmill interests, on December 23, to L. L. Daugherty.

Rev. Julius Pickett dies December 27, leaving surviving children, Joe, W. T., J. B., Amanda, Isabel, Missouri.

1927

On January 1, 1927, part of the Chatsworth-Ellijay road is alloted to the system of state-aid roads.

On February 11 Mr. Claude Watkins, former mayor of Ellijay, dies at Brighton, Colorado. His funeral is held at Ellijay on February 16. He was a son of Dr. E. W. Watkins, Sr., of Ellijay.

The equipment of the McDow Theater is sold (April 11) to two Negroes of Gainesville.

Highway surveyors pitch camp at Ellijay to work northward to Blue Ridge. On March 12, 1928, grading by the Nichols Construction Company of Atlanta begins. By November 1, 1929, the Ellijay River on the northern edge of Ellijay has been spanned. January 10, 1930, the road is graded all the way, except for a bridge at Painter Cut, to Blue Ridge.

On May 9 the cornerstone of Watkins Memorial Methodist Church, South, is laid.

Miss Olive Whitefield holds meetings for the instruction of midwives.

John Goolsby, folk musician, dies May 18.

W. H. (Hiram) Wright dies June 4. His children, Bill, Jasper, Mesdames Ellen Pritchett, J. E. Shepard, F. A. Reece, W. C. Reece, Mark Keener, Glenn Holt, Miss Ruth Wright and a widow survive.

June 6. Ellijay entertains the R. F. D. men of the Ninth Congressional District.

Dink Waters, June 14, receives an appointment to West Point Military Academy.

On June 18 East Ellijay plans for an extension of power lines into its area.

Samuel J. Sorrels, who came to Gilmer County from Louisville, Kentucky, March 2, 1872, and that year entered school at Ellijay, receives a summer school diploma at the same school fifty-five years after his original enrollment.

August 26. The death of John Wesley Withrow occurs. His surviving sons are L. M., T. C., J. J., C. J.; and daughters, Mesdames Annie Cowan, A. E. Sharp, J. H. Harper, as well as brothers, W. D. and J. L. Withrow

Wayne county, Georgia, as of this date, has about 40 families who have migrated from Gilmer

The announcement (September 2) that Ivan Allen purposes to deed Fort Mountain to the public reminds us that we might sensibly change the absurd names of some such mountains as Tater Patch to Mount Ivan Allen. Some of these early-day designations were temporarily applied by pioneers as a joke or without thought the names would stick.

Sept. 8. The Ellijay Chamber of Commerce is organized. James L. Weaver is president of the group, and George G. Ward is secretary. On December 9 the organization begins the distribution of 3,000 copies of a booklet, written by Mr. Ward, describing and illustrating Gilmer County.

Oct. 4. Gilmer road bonds sell at a premium.

Oct. 18. Mrs. Elizabeth Holt Welch dies at her home in upper Cherry Log district. She was about 96 years old, and died near her old girlhood home.

Oct. 23. The new brick Watkins Memorial (Methodist South) church, just completed, holds the first service in the new structure. But its dedication was deferred until July 14, 1929.

Nov. 9. Ellijay grants the Georgia Power Company a franchise to extend its power lines from Whitestone into Ellijay. On Oct. 18, 1928, the company completes the lines and energizes them. For the first time Ellijay and Gilmer County have ample power facilities.

Nov. 18. A surfaced road southward is completed to Jasper, and by December 21st a right of way is secured and a contract let for hard-surfacing a continuation of the same road northward to the Fannin county line.

Dec. 23. William Ellington II, born in 1836 while the Indians were still in the County dies in Ellijay, December 23. He was the son of Coke A. Ellington and grandson of Rev. William Ellington I, pioneers in the true sense.

He had a knack for thoughtful, serious and artistic expression in writing, retaining the ability to compose poetry when he was more than 90 years old.

Dec. 28. Gilmer votes five-year tax exemption for industries wishing to enter its bounds.

1928

Early this year John M. Parks, Jesse Anderson, Dick Brown, Bob Ray, belonging to Company H of the First Georgia State Troops under Joe Brown, are said to constitute the total remnant of ex-Confederate soldiers left in Gilmer County. It later develops there must have been others. W. H. T. Sawyer, another veteran, is recorded to have died on May 6; David J. Godsey, on September 27, 1929; Bail Rackley, July 11, 1929; and Fred V. Teem, October 1, 1929, and others may have existed.

W. P. Clayton, efficient beekeeper, successfully markets honey of the finest variety and furnishes many object lessons on beekeeping. Next year (April 26) he offers pointers on honey culture. He asserts Gilmer loses 90 per cent of its honey flow through failure to keep sufficient bees and to use modern methods of collecting sourwood and other valuable honey sources. A good hive can produce, he adds, 250 pounds of honey a season.

Farish C. Holden, an honored young Gilmer man, is finishing his medical course and planning to become an interne at the Georgia Baptist Hospital.

Dr. E. W. Watkins leases, on March 2nd, the Ellijay Telephone Exchange to E. E. Pope, who plans to extend his lines and give night, as well as day, telephone service.

Henry W. Derden, Gilmer native, becomes county agent of Cherokee County.

March 23rd. L. C. McArthur surveys 400 acres of land along the Atlanta highway, near Ella Gap, into lots for auction sale.

Carr Miller dies at 96.

April 20. Evans and West complete a seven-acre lake at Snider, Cartecay district, and launch their boat, the "John Henry." The lake later bursts and creates quite a flood and some litigation from people farther down the stream.

Roads continue to improve.

Jim Waters ranks high in North Georgia college glee club and editing, as well as in academic studies and military training.

Mrs. Nancy Watkins Searcey, widow of Tobe Searcey, dies at 92.

S. B. Lyons and K. L. Wyley, Sept. 16, in the Gentry field, carry up plane passengers and give a parachute leap. And ten days later a Tennessee Transport company airplane comes to a forced landing in the same neighborhood.

It might be added that the valleys of Gilmer, rather than the tops of mountains like Flat Top, offer the future our best available landing fields. This is not to say Flat Top will not some day be itself so utilized.

Sept. 7. Hampton Brothers, managed by Hayden Hampton, acquire from J. L. Hamby his Ellijay hardware store.

Nov. 6. Gilmer goes for Herbert Hoover for president.

1929

Jan. 2. Mrs. J. S. Hudson, wife of Gilmer's Commissioner of Roads and Revenues, dies. Her husband, J. S. Hudson; two sons, E. T. and R. G.; and a daughter, Miss Winifred, survive her. Mrs. Hudson's maiden name was Tabor. She descended from some of the County's best family strain and represented industry, thrift, sound wholesome attitudes of mind and heart, with ethical quality. She fully represented her share of the family tradition.

Jan. 5. Mrs. Thomas F. Greer dies at Holton, Georgia.

Wayne Westmoreland and Branson Pinson, in a basketball tournament, rate outstandingly. On the same occasion, Lillian Hipp and Frances Cobb score high. This year also marks further athletic honors for Branson Pinson; prizes also for his brother, Garnett Pinson, and Bill Sumner.

April 25. Thurston Kirby, conductor on the Pennsylvania Railroad, is accidentally killed.

Ca. May 3. Tax returns for six militia districts show gains.

Ellijay is having weekly moving pictures in the school auditorium.

Moving pictures on forest conservation travel throughout the County and are viewed by some 2,100 persons.

Aug. 23. Plans progress for a better road, a continuation of Henry Grady highway, eastward toward Dawsonville, Dahlonega and Gainesville.

On April 1, 1932, this road becomes a part of the state system of highways. Marked advances in its improvement are made during 1929.

Sept. 6. Mrs. Phoeba Baity dies at 96.

Oct. 20. A girls summer camp, with a lake, adjoining the former H. M. Ellington property four miles southeast of Ellijay, begins evolving.

Dec. 3. School equipment is placed at Henry Grady, Oakland, and Gilmer County high schools.

Dec. 4. Teem Wholesale building and stock is burned. The building (erected 1914) was one of the larger buildings of the County.

Dec. 21-22. This marks the largest snowfall seen in several years. More snow comes the last of the next month, its depth, as usual, increasing with the altitude of the land covered by it.

On Dec. 29 Mrs. R. A. (Maude) Pinson, daughter of Garrett Davis, son of pioneer John E. Davis, dies.

1930

Early in 1930 poultry cars are being provided by the ever busy and business-like county agents of Gilmer and neighboring counties along the L & N railroad.

Feb. 28. Jonas Key becomes postmaster at White Path, and takes over the store and timber trade formerly conducted there by S. B. Stanley.

March 7, T. W. Craigo, age 79, dies.

In the spring of 1930 Miss Frances Cobb wins marked distinction in athletics at Peabody college.

May 9. Census returns show increases, during the last 10 years, in the population of Ellijay and East Ellijay and decreases in rural areas except in Town Creek district. The County had 8,406 people in 1920, but has only 7,344 in 1930.

In the spring of 1930 Miss Edna McDaniel, field nurse, works on health problems in the County.

A reward of $100 is offered, this spring, for the conviction of persons setting fires in the woods.

June 20. The home of W. H. (Henry) Plemmons burns while he is away herding in the mountains.

July 4. This marks the death of Mrs. Marintha Hill Parks, widow of Burton Parks, who died in 1913. She is survived by children, W. B., J. L., J. M., G. M., J. A., Mrs. Lou Harper. She was a sister to one of the County's most honored county school superintendents, William F. Hill.

The Government moves to condemn more Gilmer land for forest and water reserve (Aug. 22), and on Nov. 2, 1931, adds nearly 6,000 acres of Gilmer and Fannin (county) lands to the Cherokee National Forest preserve.

Aug. 29. All-talking moving pictures are already being exhibited in neighboring communities and advertised in the Ellijay-Times Courier.

In the fall of 1930 Gilmer farms have dropped from 1,343, in 1920, to 1,234.

The County has a successful fair, the first it has planned along fully modernized lines, September 23-27. Winners in the apple, corn, and other exhibits are announced September 26. C. M. Dellenger, county agent, has been very active in promoting it.

Oct. 15. The handsome home of N. A. Pratt in Leaches district is destroyed by fire.

Thomas L. Rogers dies at 96. His wife preceded him in death Nov. 26, 1927.

Nov. 28. A convenient, time-saving road between J. P. Cloniger's and Whitestone is completed.

In 1931 other roads in Boardtown, Cherry Log, Leaches and additional districts improve with a promptness that would have astonished any previous generation.

In 1930 Gilmer attempts to instruct 683 illiterates, but used the wrong plan by expecting these people to leave home for instruction. They can best be reached in their own homes—and not always then.

Dec. 9. The death of Horace M. Ellington, one of Gilmer County's best known and honored figures occurs at his home two miles south of Ellijay. His people migrated to Gilmer County in the early 1830s while this whole region was known as "The Cherokee Country." His great-grandfather was Rev. William Ellington, who was the original member of his family to come to Gilmer.

His grandfather, Coke A. Ellington, was a merchant among the Indians and knew much of their language and customs, and enjoyed many friendships among them. His father was William Ellington II.

Horace M. Ellington was born May 10, 1866. For ten years he was postmaster of Ellijay, and for the same length of time was clerk of the court. His greatest work, however, was in his newspaper connections. He was for many years editor of the Ellijay Courier. He also established at Ellijay the Mountain Sentinel. From these two newspapers grew the present newspaper of Ellijay and Gilmer County, the Times-Courier, which absorbed, also, another newspaper, the Ellijay Times, established after the "Sentinel."

Mr. Ellington was married, the first time, in 1893 to Miss Mema Buffington, who died in 1913. Children of this union are Mesdames Gertrude Cantrell and Frank Hamby; Frank, Bill, Jack, and Miss Clara Ellington. He was, in a second marriage, united to Miss Julia Bennett, who survived him. His children by her are Lucile, James, Elizabeth. He was buried at Oak Hill Methodist church near his boyhood home.

Horace M. Ellington will be best remembered for the kindly, and often broad humor of his writings, his philosophy, and poetry, in which some of his best philosophy occurs. I have been able to collect a good portion of these.

HORACE M. ELLINGTON

He was a man who loved the simple life, quiet ways, and the homely joys. He reveled in wholesome wits like Bill Nye. In appearance, he was tall and thin and dark. His hair and eyes were very dark, his complexion colorless. His set, rather stolid, facial expression revealed little of his inner thought. Quiet, temperate, mild of speech, loyal and generous in his friendships, he was actuated by sound social ideals. He is mentioned and quoted in our chapter on Art.

During this period of improving roads, school transportation began, and as this grew in importance the old plan of a few students coming into Ellijay from outlying sections and boarding or keeping their own quarters was gradually supplanted by buses and more buses.

Our first bus driver was Hub Burnett, still among us. Mr. Burnett believes the patrons who sent children in his bus, at first, tried pooling on the expenses. But after a few months of that, he also recalls, the Gilmer County board of education took over the expenses of operating the bus.

The first bus was an old affair formerly operated by the Hyatt hotel to transport guests of the hostelry to and from trains. It had two long seats, one on each side, that ran up and down the inside length of the vehicle. It could accommodate only about 15 students. Mr. Burnett was in the seventh grade. His route started at the Pickens county line. He parked his bus near the school house during the day. When school was out, he returned along his same route.

1931

On January 26 fire destroys the McHan Motor Company. In the succeeding fall the burnt building is replaced.

On February 5, 1931, S. G. Clayton dies. He was a son of William Clayton. His mother's maiden name was Stone. He is survived by his widow; sons, Robert, Roy; daughters, Mesdames D. C. Giles, E. A. Byrd, Miss Ruth, Annie, Bonnie. He was a brother to Lemuel, M. S. and John W. Clayton, the widely known orchardist.

On March 22 the funeral of Mrs. Nancy Evans, widow of "Uncle Bob" Evans, is conducted. She leaves sons, M. V., W. L., J. M., R. H., daughters, Mesdames R. L. Allen, R. J. Reece, C. L. Goss, C. L. Goble, Miss Sallie. Uncle Bob himself died March 11. The couple was married 65 years.

A severe electrical storm strikes Mountaintown, killing cattle and burning a barn. Avery Langley is injured.

On May 17 Frank Parks, born June 26, 1854, dies. His children, still living, are Tom, Jim, John, Ed, Cleve, Mesdames Annie Harper, Alice Johnson, Lena Dale, Estelle Henson, Lorena Fincher. Mr. Parks, a sympathetic and accommodating neighbor, belonged to a family that is probably more numerous than any other in the County.

On June 12, 1931, material for the construction of Henry Grady Highway (State no. 2, U. S. 76) is arriving. The first dirt is broken on June 23. On August 28 a night crew begins speeding up grading. By August 26, 1932, the way, rough but passable, is open through to Chatsworth.

In July 1931, a new telephone line is being strung north and south across the County. The line begins at Marietta and terminates at Murphy, North Carolina.

Gilmer County Fair opens for the second time. Winners on general farm booths are Stembridge Brothers, J. S. Hudson, L. H. Kennemur. Displays of apples, honey, potatoes (both kinds), corn are especially good.

Government engineers in Bucktown survey and estimate timber resources.

The two Baptist churches of Ellijay, Sept. 6, 1931, consolidate into the Baptist Church of Ellijay. The new body begins, on Oct. 9, 1931, planning for the erection of a new and much more commodious brick church of modern design and convenience. This structure is, with the close of 1932, practically complete.

Oct. 23. The city makes one of its chief steps in progress in its completion of a modern system of waterworks. A sanitary tank is constructed to stand 150 feet above the level of the town on old Seminary Hill. The system operates entirely by gravity flow. Sewer lines are also laid. Bonds for this work were voted May 25.

Mrs. Sophie Evans, widow of J. C. Evans, once prominent lumber man of Ellijay, dies Oct. 31 in Atlanta. Mr. Evans came to Ellijay about 1885. In the early 1890s he bought the Stanton Lumber mills. He died in 1901. A daughter, now deceased, was the wife of Dr. J. S. Tankersley. James S. Tankersley, of modern days, is of course a grandson of Mr. Evans.

Curtailment of L & N train service results in mail delivery by bus between Copper Hill, Tennessee, by way of Ellijay, and Atlanta.

Ellijay, on December 11, 1931, organized a ladder company and three fire companies with reel, hose, nozzles, wrenches, axes, lanterns, chemical extinguishers.

1932

Jan. 8. Talc mining is resumed at Maxwell.

J. P. Cloniger, Confederate veteran, age 88, dies Jan. 15, leaving sons, J. N., J. P. A daughter was Mrs. Mary Tatum.

March 9. John Gordon Plemmons dies in Toledo, Ohio. At the behest of his wife, a native of Massachusetts, he is buried in that state. Mr. Plemmons was a graduate of the Berry Schools, and for two years studied at the University of Georgia. His college career interrupted by the first world war, he went to Wisconsin to assist in the manufacture of artillery.

After the war, he is said to have worked as a designer for the Ford Motor Company. He putatively perfected several patents on improvements in the Ford automobile. He leaves a sister, Mrs. Roma Clark of Parrott, Georgia. Both are natives of Gilmer.

On June 24 Larkin B. Holt, namesake of the original Holt pioneer to Gilmer County, celebrates his 88th birthday at his home in Cherry Log district. Mr. Holt is a son of Elijah Holt Jr., a grandson of Elijah Holt Sr., and a nephew of Seaborn Holt.

July 17. Wiley Pankey, 95, dies in Ridgeway district. He was for four years a Confederate soldier, Company E, 60th Georgia Regiment. He was a man of unusual emotional and physical quality. Piety and humaneness richly imbued his nature.

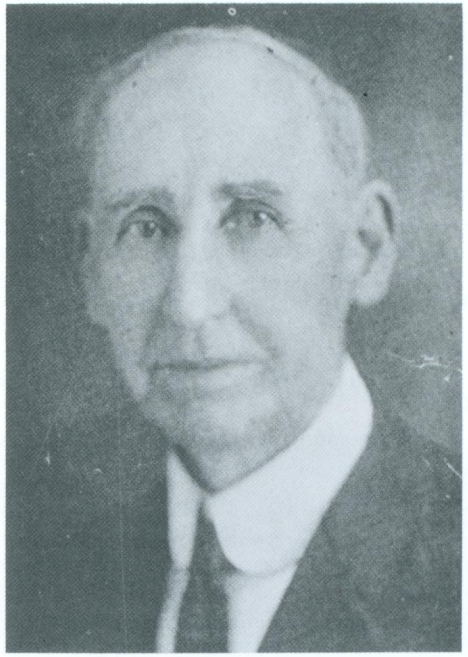
He got about like a much younger man. He was friendly and courteous to a degree.

Among surviving relatives is a young son, said to have been born when Mr. Pankey was around 80. Wiley Pankey's birth is placed at 1837, the year before the Indians left. William Ellington II was born in 1836, two years before Indian removal. Granted both were natives of Gilmer, they both actually lived among the Indians, yet both lived to see modern Gilmer's developments.

Aug. 2. An auction of 620 acres of the W. F. McHan estate is held.

Aug. 26. John W. Clayton, orchardist and inventor, dies at his home near

Pioneer in Modern Orcharding



JOHN W. CLAYTON

Marietta. Mr. Clayton made history in Gilmer, where he was born Nov. 26, 1854, at the old Clayton homestead, handed down from his paternal grandfather, Josiah Clayton, pioneer, a settler there prior to Indian removal. His father was William Clayton, his mother Mary (Stone) Clayton.

Although, on account of the Civil War, handicapped in educational advantages, he received sufficient formal instruction to enable him to become one of Gilmer's first teachers under the public school system inaugurated by N. L. Osborn and his co-workers of 1872. He taught another school under E. W. Watkins, who, after a year of service as school commissioner by Mr. Osborn, succeeded to Mr. Osborn's place as commissioner.

In 1874 Mr. Clayton removed to Chattanooga and turned his attention to patenting and promoting household appliances, among which was the Crescent Quilter. He also traveled and distributed his articles. At the opening of World War I he was in Atlanta. After 30 years of travel, he ended with a hundred thousand dollars clear cash.

He invested in real estate and dealt some in that. His interest in education never ceased. He financed the educational training of several relatives. He was married in 1878, but declined to discuss this phase of his life. To this union was born a son, John D. Clayton.

Beginning in 1903, John W. Clayton planted a commercial orchard in Gilmer County. His was a pioneer step in this direction. For the location of his orchard, he undoubtedly chose more wisely than he himself thought—just south of Stover mountain and on fairly elevated and sloping ground. He took up actual residence at this orchard in 1913. He shipped away the first commercial pack of Gilmer apples. He interested himself in orcharding over a considerable area, and was one of the wisest consultants on the development of apple orchards.

In 1913 he won first prize at the State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, New York, with his fine Gilmer apples. He also won on similar exhibits for several succeeding years at the same place. In fact, exhibiting apples, for Mr. Clayton, seemed to carry little element of chance: he won steadily.

His exhibits of apples scored "tops" at New York City, Philadelphia, Niagara Falls at exhibits of conventions of International Apple Growers. For a number of years he captured first prize at Georgia State and Southeastern fairs of his native state.

In 1926 the statement was published that he had, for 15 years, sold apples at a profit from his orchard of 5,000 trees. And that result from an orchard 10 miles from a railroad.

In order to win championship medals such as he did at the international apple show, for instance, he had to compete with fruit from apple-growing districts from the entire United States and Nova Scotia. Three medals from this show (in 1917) were for the best Winesap, Rome Beauty, Ben Davis. First-prize-winning years at the New York State exhibits were 1913, 1915, 1916, 1917.

John W. Clayton experimented much with apples with a view to determining what varieties could be most successfully cultivated in his own location. As a result of this patient experimentation, he centered upon five kinds, among which were those he won by exhibiting, although he experimented with some 70 species.

He also grew fine commercial peaches, but of all fruits, apples were his pride and favorite. He sold as high as $900 worth of his best paying varieties of apples from a single acre of trees.

He was generally described as the most progressive orchardist of Gilmer County. He began selling apples the last of June; and not infrequently was obliged, around Christmas, to begin returning money orders because he could no longer supply the demand for his fine fruit. He has been honored by the Atlanta Journal and many other newspapers and magazines. At the close of 1926 he gave up his orchard interests in his native neighborhood and removed to retirement near Marietta, where he died on the date above mentioned. But the inspiration of his example, push, patience and persistence remains.

Sept. 16. N. A. Pratt already has 125 acres set in apple trees—mainly red and yellow Delicious. Mr. Pratt affirms Gilmer, of all counties east of the Mississippi, has second heaviest rainfall. He uses a polishing machine, a roller elevator from which cull apples are removed by hand, a sizing and distributing machine and paper packs, or cartons.

Some neighbor boys send Ike Stone on a veritable treasure hunt and pirate chase when they carry off a small trunk of his that contained $3,000.

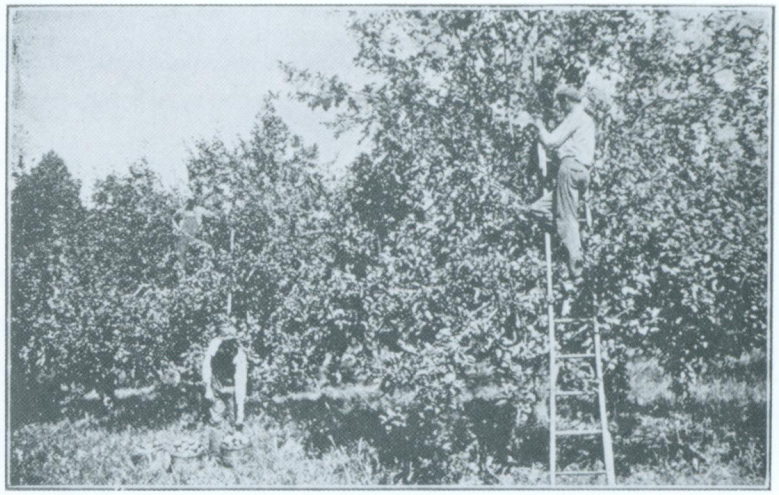
T. S. Shope, Dalton editor and publisher, visits his native Gilmer for the first time in 40 years, although he lives but 38 miles away.

Mrs. Sarah Weaver, mother of Meridy Weaver, attains, on Oct. 26, the age of 96. Her neighbor of eastern Tickanetley, Joe Newberry, reached the same age in the preceding January.

Assistant State Geologist, R. W. Smith, looks over Gilmer ores and minerals generally.

The nation-wide financial stringency, rather slow (as usual in such cases) in reaching Gilmer, finally pinches and gnaws so hard and with such desperate persistence that the outlook grows darker and darker. It is responsible, in part, for an unusually heavy swarm of political candidates and multiplied uncertainties in the outcome of races. There is considerable shift of office holders.

Nov. 8. The County reverses its big Hoover majority of four years before and goes about two to one for Franklin D. Roosevelt.



Gathering apples in what was formerly the John W. Clayton orchard.

This picture was taken in 1927, less than a year after Mr. Clayton had disposed of the orchard.

CHAPTER 17

Closing Period, Events 1933 to 1962

1933

Jan. 1. Mrs. Matilda Hunnicutt, 89, widow of John Hunnicutt, dies in Dalton, and is buried in Ellijay cemetery Jan. 2.

Jan. 6. W. H. Shippen reviews in the press his long connection with the lumber industry in Gilmer County. He recounts he began in 1896. He led a long struggle with copper smelters north of us over timber-damaging fumes. He and his brother, he also avers, were forced out of the lumber company established by them in 1915, and the enterprise wrecked financially. He views Ellijay as a very fortunate place for lumber plants that are properly handled.

Jan. 12. B. P. Whitaker dies at his home in Ellijay. Nearing 84, Mr. Whitaker was born in Cherokee county, North Carolina, March 1, 1849. He came to Gilmer County in 1854 with his father, Silas Whitaker. His early life was spent in Boardtown valley on the old Whitaker farm just east of the confluence of Ellijay river and Boardtown creek.

Dec. 17, 1871, he was married to Miss Ellen Allen. Ten children were born to the couple. Seven of these, in addition to his widow, survive: Mrs. E. W. Henry, J. L., Mrs. J. W. Ray, Mrs. H. F. Wright, Mack, Frank, and Mrs. J. L. Henson.

Jan. 27. One hundred seventy-five are reported to be receiving Red Cross aid in the County. No funds are granted to persons who have a change of raiment or anything to eat.

Feb. 10. Paving is completed on highway south to Atlanta.

Gilmer native, Hoke Miller, and Prof. Thomas H. Whitehead improve copper smelting by a process called by them the iodometric type.

Feb. 25. An American Legion post is organized at Ellijay, Rev. H. H. Dillard, commander.

March 8. Funeral of M. T. Dooley is held at Ellijay.

March 10. Bank of Ellijay is closed under government order. On March 15 (having been closed from March 4 to 15) the bank opens for business as usual. On the first day of its reopening deposits exceeded withdrawals $15,000.

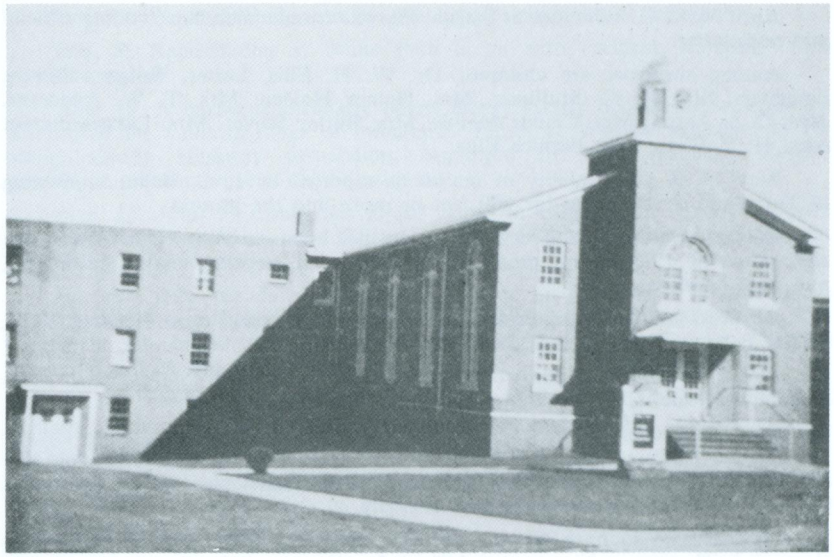
The L & N railroad begins to pick up and deliver smaller freight shipments in Ellijay.

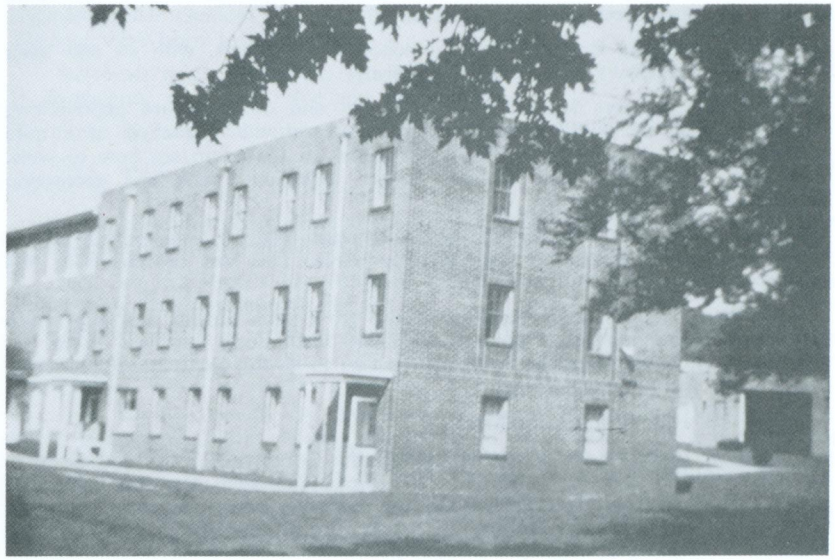
March 19. A new Baptist church is dedicated in Ellijay. At first it was called Baptist Church of Ellijay. Recently it is referred to as the First Baptist. Mrs. J. P. Cobb, one of the few Catholics of Ellijay, contributed a painting (her own work) that occupies a position back of the baptistry.

April 1. L & N railroad cuts fares heavily.

April 2. D. T. Jarrett, 79, dies. He was a son of Jesse I. Jarrett, pioneer. He is survived by sons, Frank and Norman; and daughters, Mrs. Ivory Arp, Miss Kitty Jarrett, Mrs. E. M. McCandlish; sisters, Mrs. C. B. Kelley, Mrs. H. T. Smith, and his widow.

April 8. John Holden, father of Willard and Fairley Holden, dies in Diamond district.





NEW BAPTIST HOUSE OF WORSHIP

This excellent brick church and its educational annex are successors to several Baptist churches dating back to about 1840, on which date it is believed Baptist church work was organized in Ellijay. The new church is a fitting memorial to those brave and hopeful spirits of the early days.

April 18. J. G. Ellis dies at Pisgah. He was former merchant, county official and postmaster.

Among survivors are children: Dr. W. H. Ellis, Lester, Hobart, Dewey; daughters, Mrs. H. C. Mullinax, Mrs. Homer Holden, Mrs. T. W. Anderson, Mrs. O. S. Aaron, Mrs. Claude Mathis, Mrs. Burley Stover, Mrs. Lanora Aaron, Mrs. H. P. Eller, Miss Bernice Ellis.

May 19. A good quality of marble is reported by J. G. Betha as existing at Tioga and as extending for 100 feet or more into the ground.

June 1. Mrs. Mary E. Perry, 74, dies at her home at Ellijay. Mrs. Perry was the widow of J. P. Perry, prominent attorney and one-time mayor of Ellijay, and state legislator.

Survivors are, children, Miss Ethel Perry, Miss Ruth Perry, Howard Perry, Phillip Perry; a sister, Mrs. T. H. Tabor.

June 2. Grading on Chatsworth road goes on in spite of controversy at State Capitol over who is to manage what in State Highway offices.

June 10. Reuben (Dock) Sanford, 88, dies in Bucktown. He came to Gilmer from South Carolina when he was eight years old. He was a precise mechanic and worker in wood—even to making a fiddle. He was a man with a marvelous memory, although he could not read or write.

He was said to have known 300 folk songs by heart, and he could sing them too. He composed verse and then found a tune for it. And he could reminisce most interestingly of the old days.

June 16. Ellijay Regional summer school for teachers, with its new plan of crediting, registers 175 for its annual term.

June 23. Quarters for 200 CCC workers and directors are approaching completion near the Neal Gentry place. The camps are a fraction of a mile southeast of the old Gentry home. The members of the camp are here to work in forests, build firebreaks, lookout towers, telephone lines and recreation facilities.

Upon arrival, the 200 men and boys pitch tents and lay a water pipe line to Ellijay city water, which the town furnished free. This was completed in less than a week.

No phase of the government-sponsored work done during the depression period was better or more permanent. There was much question as to the advisability of many so-called "projects" of this time. But as to the CCC work, it was never in the doubtful class.

June 26. Juan Kell dies in Atlanta.

June 30. The average cotton acreage of the County for the past five years has been but 698 acres, and this year will run to 800, each acre producing 200 pounds of lint cotton. Nevertheless, the few farmers prepare to plow under 25 to 40 per cent of their plantings to satisfy the whimsicalities of Henry A. Wallace.

June 30. Henry Grady Highway association meets in Ellijay to boost completion of a road to Chatsworth.

July 9. J. E. Stembridge dies at Ella Gap. He is survived by sons, R. C., now postmaster of Ellijay, W. F., and daughters, Miss Annie Stembridge, and Mrs. G. W. Davis.

A. L. Kimzey, for 40 years postmaster at Diamond in Diamond district, dies at his home.

July 28. W. R. O'Dell, county agent, begins agricultural training.

Mrs. R. Randall dies at White Path in an auto accident, according to a tentative report.

Aug. 10. A barbecue officially opens Henry Grady Scenic highway on the summit of the Cohutta range of mountains. James L. Weaver, president of the Henry Grady Highway association, organized in 1925, presides. Several prominent speakers appear on the program.

Aug. 13. John P. Cobb dies at his home in Ellijay. Mr. Cobb was born Oct. 31, 1861. He was a former Ellijay merchant, Baptist, past master of Masons, court clerk, and Democrat.

His first wife, the former Miss Bell Sutton, died in 1898. To this union three children were born: Mrs. Pauline Cobb Warlick, Max S. Cobb, H. Roy Cobb. He was joined, in a second marriage, to Miss Bessie Truman. To this union were born Frances T. and John Cobb.

Among survivors, in addition to the widow and five children, are: Brothers, William Cobb, Nathan Cobb, both of Texas; sisters, Mrs. J. W. Glenn, Bluffdale, Texas; Mrs. M. L. Cox Sr., Ellijay, Ga.

Aug. 16. J. Fonzo Williams dies at 94. Mr. Williams, native of Buncombe county, North Carolina, came to Georgia in 1856 and settled with his parents on a farm on Clear creek.

In the Civil War he served on the Confederate side in the 23rd Georgia regiment under General Colquitt. In 1867 he married Miss Mary Teem. Eight children were born to the couple.

Survivors were: Daughters, Mrs. G. G. Wright, Mrs. J. A. Parker, Mrs. W. H. Kennemur; sons, J. B., Joe and Jack.

Aug. 18. Jack Williams opens a marble shop in Ellijay.

CCC camp gets tractor and road grader, and will improve road east from Cherry Log to the head of Big creek.

All American grocery chain stores of Florida celebrate their fifth year. They are headed by Arthur Powell, native of Gilmer.

Aug. 19. Jim Holt, a boy of 15 of Cherry Log, sustains fatal knife wounds inflicted by Elmer Alsobrook, 14.

Aug. 20. Mrs. A. H. Burtz dies. She was the former Miss Lollie Bell. She once taught a private school at Ellijay, and was much interested in writing for publication.

Aug. 24. Ed Bennett, 24, dies at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Bennett of Ellijay. Young Ed, noted as an athlete, was a poet by his very nature and a promising young artist. His few remaining pictures and sketches show decided talent for art.

Aug. 25. Gilmer people are still going to the Fair at Chicago, and on November 17 an excursion train was run to it.

Sept. 4. Ellijay school opens with 100 plus in the high school group and more than 200 in the grades.

East Ellijay wants more grades taught in its school.

Sept. 15. New relief committee, consists of J. S. Burrell, chairman; Dr. J. S. Tankersley, J. B. Williams; Miss Florence Simmons to continue as county administrator.

Sept. 28. J. C. Searcey dies at Canton. Among survivors is Mrs. H. C. Cole, Ellijay.

Oct. 6. Forestry camp on the edge of Ellijay marks progress.

The country still hears insistent yawps for repeal of prohibition. Pigs are being destroyed, cotton plowed under.

Prosperity is usually attained the same way: by sober, energetic action, laws that protect, and sensible distribution.

Oct. 27. The death of Charlie H. Foote, 88, Confederate veteran, leaves only three such veterans in the County. Widows of veterans number 14.

Rev. W. S. Dobbs dies suddenly in East Ellijay, November 1.

Dec. 13. CWA office, under direction of Rev. H. H. Dillard, opens in Ellijay.

Dec. 22. Miss Charme Tankersley dies in Ellijay.

1934

Jan. 5. Mrs. Missouri Foote, daughter of Alfred Bishop and widow of Charlie H. Foote, dies.

Jan. 19. Gilmer is being surveyed and mapped by the Geodetic survey directed by H. G. Holbert.

Cherokee National Forest, which lies in Gilmer, Murray, Fannin, Lumpkin and Cherokee counties is enlarged by 17,050 acres.

Jan. 28. Joe Newberry, 97 years old, dies in Diamond district. He was the last of those born among the Indians.

Feb. 26. Dr. J. B. Bearden dies.

March 21. P. G. Hyatt, 85, dies at his home in Ridgeway district. For 60 years he was merchant and postmaster at an office called Tails Creek. His father, William G. Hyatt, settled at Ellijay in 1834.

Peter G. Hyatt attended such schools as Ellijay offered. On April 4, 1875, he moved westward in Gilmer, settling in Ridgeway district, twelve miles from Ellijay. During the Civil War the Tails Creek post office, located in the area to which he had removed, had been discontinued. But Mr. Hyatt circulated a petition to have it re-established, which was done. On Sept. 20, 1877, he was appointed postmaster of the revived office. He also farmed and raised livestock. He maintained a store in the building in which he housed the post office.

He served the people of his County in the various capacities of surveyor, tax receiver, county treasurer, and member of the county board of education. He was a Baptist.

Survivors are: A son, John; three daughters, Mrs. Ben Burgess, Mrs. E. E. Tankersley, Mrs. Floyd Quarles.

March 30. Rev. G. C. Osborn dies in Texas at the age of 87.

April 5. The Ellijay Telephone company begins 24-hour service.

April 10. Near 2,000 people gather at White Path to hear Governor Eugene Talmadge and to chase foxes, of which two were turned loose to make a race more sure.

April 19. A paving contract for five miles of road in Cherry Log district is let.

April 30. Mrs. Elizabeth West, 90, dies at the home of a son, Jonathon. Mrs. West took great pains to preserve the minutes—and thus the history—of Ebenezer Baptist Church, the oldest church of its kind in Gilmer County.

Aug. 24. Ed Pinson dies. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Pinson, and belonged to a family of long residence in the County. He was survived by his widow and their four sons, Herman, Branson, Garnett, Jack, and Wayne.

Aug. 31. The CCC boys report having killed 19 copperheads and 20 rattlers all denning under one log.

As the time draws near to remove the old brick courthouse, Judge J. C. Allen furnishes some interesting background data on it.

The structure was erected by Cowan Brothers, contractors, of Cleveland, Tennessee, in 1853 for $5,000. The County took possession promptly. In 1871 the contractors sued Gilmer in Federal court for $11,000, including interest for 17 years. Judgment was obtained for the sum asked.

It was very hard times. The matter of the courthouse rocked along with a few scattered payments being made on the judgment until 1877, when Judge J. C. Allen, upon becoming ordinary of Gilmer County, levied a special tax for four successive years and paid the debt in full 24 years after the work was done.

About 1885, on recommendation of the grand jury, the Judge also installed the iron rod braces which held the walls together. The structure had about lived out its usefulness when Judge Allen also purchased the double iron safe, with openings in the offices of the ordinary and the clerk. This step gave the first protection of records against fire and theft.

This move in progress was supplemented, about 1908, when Judge T. H. Tabor purchased several larger safes. A great quantity of the old records, however, is still unprotected in wall shelves, and interested citizens look forward to seeing these also stored in fireproof vaults.

The old house originally had a shingle roof, then another which was stained; and the present metal roof, put on about 1900, was still in excellent condition when the house was torn down. Very few other improvements were made during the 81-year history of the structure.

Sept. 25. Mrs. Martha Stewart, widow of Ned Stewart, age 83, dies in Cherry Log district.

Sept. 26. The funeral of Allie Harper, former Boardtown citizen and a whole-souled spirit in Salem Baptist church while he lived there, is held at Calhoun.

Sept. 28. The Bank of Ellijay, prompted by robberies elsewhere, restricts the amount of cash on hand.

Oct. 14. R. J. Goble dies.

Oct. 15. Death of Mrs. Josie Ray is reported.

Nov. 13. Julia (Cole) Pickett, widow of Julius Pickett, dies in Gordon county.

Nov. 30. FERA (a relief agency) decides to pay workers under its authority the current local pay scale.

The new courthouse installs a vault for public records.

Dec. 31. Direct relief ends. Employables only are to be retained as workers on FERA. Unemployables are sent back to local charities.

Rev. A. M. Johnson, 86, of East Ellijay, dies with the closing year. He was born in Macon county, North Carolina, Jan. 21, 1849, and came to Georgia at the age of 21. For more than 40 years he had lived at the home where he died. His grandfather, Bennett Johnson, came from Ireland in 1780, and settled

at Yorktown, Virginia. He later removed to Burke county, North Carolina, where Jacob Johnson, the father of A. M. Johnson. was born in 1816.

Later Jacob Johnson moved to Macon county, North Carolina, where he died in 1852, when Rev. A. M. Johnson was less than three years old.

A. M. was married nearly 63 years ago. His widow survives. Two of their seven daughters preceded him in death. The five surviving are Mrs. M. B. Smith, Mrs. J. W. McCleskey, Mrs. Roy T. Atherton, Mrs. W. T. Pickett, Mrs. J. D. Johnson.

1935

Jan. 18. Will H. Shippen presents, in the local newspaper, the plight of real estate in our tax scheme.

Feb. 8. A Boy Scout troop, sponsored by the Lions Club, is formed at Ellijay. Boys forming the charter membership are Dan Westmoreland, James Ellington, Wayne Pinson, Howard James, Robert Stembridge Jr., Joe Parham, J. M. Garrett Jr., Thelbert Wimpey, Charles Poindexter, Clay Logan.

John M. Northcutt, 88, dies at the home of his son, T. H. Northcutt. Since John M. was a Confederate veteran, that appears to leave but one such veteran in the County.

Feb. 27. T. G. Simmons, 86, former prominent citizen of Ellijay, dies in Atlanta.

March 4. Howard Perry succeeds Watkins Edwards as postmaster at Ellijay.

March 22. A farm census shows an increase of 147 farms in the County since 1930.

April 22. W. L. Fowler, in charge of the lookout tower on Rich mountain, invites the public to "come up in the clouds" and bring lunch and spend the day singing.

May. The CCC boys are building a road south from Henry Grady highway by Tatum Knob. It continues south to Fields Gap in Tails Creek district. The boys are also erecting a lookout tower on the knob.

May 3. A news item, carried locally, tells how repealing of laws against the sale of liquor would bring so many dollars "to the common schools next year." This was reckoned on the sale of liquor alone, not mentioning beer.

No mention is made, in connection with these hypothetical dollars and roseate promises and effort to involve our emotions, of the vast expenditures and harm that must naturally entail from drinking enough booze to get a little tax money that way.

May 17. Gilmer becomes the first Georgia county, so it is said, to contribute its own funds to the protection of its forests from fire.

May 20. R. W. Randall, owner of property at White Path, goes on trial on the charge of murdering his wife July 28, 1933. He was acquitted August 19, 1933. But the grand jury of May 1934 returned an indictment of him charging murder, and Randall was released under a $10,000 bond.

July 19. The W. B. Johnson auction company, Atlanta, affirms "in no section have we found conditions as good as in Gilmer County."

July 26. Ellijay post office reports for the second time this year an increased volume of business. This last time reports a growth of nearly one-third over the same period of 1934.

Aug. 2. A new tract of 1,934 acres of Gilmer land is added to the Chattahoochee National Forest reservation, the people receiving for it $7,205.80.

Aug. 14. Social Security begins here as elsewhere.

Aug. 16. Gilmer has a farm agent, and another supplied by TVA.

Aug. 26. T. A. (Asbury) James, 88, dies in East Ellijay. Mr. James was a Union soldier during the War between the States.

Sept. 5. Arthur G. Pinson, 84, dies at Blue Ridge. A son of B. J. Pinson, he was a native of Gilmer. He was reared at the Chief White Path home. He was long merchant and postmaster at White Path, near his birthplace. He was also a merchant at Ellijay, Roy and Blue Ridge. To these capacities he gave about 50 years of his life. During some of his earlier years he also taught school.

His wife was Miss Jennie May, daughter of William May. He was a brother to Sam Pinson and A. J.

Sept. 6. Crushed whitestone taken from quarries on the southern border of Gilmer is being used as ballast on the highway leading northeast from Ellijay, 30,000 tons being required.

The same stone crushed and ground to dust has about two dozen other uses. One of these is in the making of terrazzo office building floors. Whitestone products go to every state in the union and to foreign lands.

Sept. 21. The last stretch of the Ellijay-Blue Ridge highway, No. 5, eight miles in length, is paved and opened.

Oct. 4. The CCC boys build a telephone line to the top of Reid mountain.

Oct. 14. Ellijay announces: "We have a new courthouse, new roads and streets have been paved, and just this week paving of the public square was completed.

"During this recent building period new and modern churches have replaced some old wooden structures, business houses have been improved and a city water system installed. The next move is for a new school plant."

Nov. 1. C. N. Bryan & Co., manufacturers of barrel staves, establish themselves at Ellijay.

Bonds to the amount of $25,000, to be sold by trustees of Ellijay district, are issued. The bonds sold Nov. 8 for a premium of $1,675. A federal grant of $20,454 raises the amount available to $45,454 for construction of a new schoolhouse at Ellijay.

Dec. 24. J. G. Cole resigns his business connection with Chapman Drug Company, with which firm he became associated in 1902.

Dec. 27. Five inches of snow is recorded at Ellijay. Electric, bus, mail, train services are all seriously disrupted.

Dec. 30. A cold storage plant is guaranteed Ellijay. Farm agents C. E. Bell and W. R. O'Dell formulate plans. The sum of $6,000 is being raised locally. This sum is to be enhanced by $20,000 in material and labor by the local WPA organization.

The building is to be used for assembling, storing, grading and marketing farm products.

During this year one-fourth of the County's people are on relief of some kind.

Dec. 31. Yet the local newspaper declares that Ellijay made more progress during 1935 than in any 10 years previous.

1936

Jan. 7. TVA farm agents meet at Ellijay and discuss pasture management. The 12 agents and their assistants represent Gilmer, Towns, Union, Fannin, Pickens, Lumpkin, and Dawson counties.

Jan. 10. Ellijay CCC camp, established in 1933, dissolves and the 183 boys composing it are distributed among similar camps at Eton, Suches, Blairsville, Robertstown, Lakemont, Hiawassee, Clayton. A skellton force of boys will be retained at the camp a few days for winding up affairs. The local press praises the conduct of the camp.

Gilmer has three rural mail routes and ten star routes on Jan. 17.

Jan. 29. Eugene Talmadge makes the New Deal look ridiculous for destroying hogs, cattle, wheat, oats, and cotton. He also incurs much venemous hatred.

Jan. 31. Snow is seven inches deep at Ellijay, deeper in the uplands.

A contract for the construction of Ellijay schoolhouse is awarded to Barrett Construction Company of Dalton for $40,917.

Feb. 2. Mrs. Katie Sitten, nearing 96, dies in the Tails Creek section. Her maiden name was Katie Low. In 1865 she was married to R. J. Sitten. She and her husband both were natives of North Carolina.

Feb. 6. Walter S. Coleman dies in Atlanta. He once lived at Ellijay and published the Ellijay Courier. The Coleman home stood where the boarding place formerly known as the Powell house now stands. The Colemans owned the lot back to East Spring Street. The Coleman family donated the lot upon which the Ellijay Methodist church now stands.

Feb. 7. Bob Ray is the only Confederate soldier left in Gilmer. Other Confederate pensioners include widows: Sarah A. DeBorde, Malinda Eller, Mrs. E. A. Harris, Mrs. A. A. Heath, Mrs. R. A. Long, Mrs. L. A. Plemmons.

Feb. 28. D. K. Ralston dies at 88.

Ernest Parker presents the readers of the Times-Courier a charming little poem, "Winter Snow," beginning

> As I sit beside the fire,
> That sheds a ruddy glow,
> I view beyond my window pane
> The charm of falling snow.

April 1. Ellijay Woman's Club house formally opens. The club's history since it was organized in 1912 is recited.

April 3. Gilmer County, along with numerous other sections of Georgia, is being photographed from the air, the resulting pictures to be shown in the Atlanta Georgian newspaper.

The author of this History obtained releases on a number of these photographs and some of them are carried herein.

April 6. Storms that wrought such havoc to Gainesville, 58 miles east of Ellijay, are felt in Gilmer also. A tornado strikes two and a fraction miles south of Ellijay and sweeps east, destroying a barn of H. G. Cantrell, River Hill Baptist church, and the home of Will Garrett.

The Ellijay chapter of the Red Cross raises $513.50 to aid in the relief of their storm-stricken Gainesville neighbors.

THERON S. SHOPE

He advised us well in the production of this History

April 8. Theron S. Shope, native of Ellijay, dies at Dalton. Born April 6, 1874, he learned printing at Ellijay, moved to Atlanta, then to Dalton, where he became extensively interested in printing, editing and publishing.

April 10. Mrs. V. C. Fox takes over "spread" business formerly operated by Paul Westfield at Ellijay.

Gilmer farmers begin getting payments for specified soil improvement practices.

April 11. Stegall mill, near Oak Hill, is praised for its long service in sawing and grinding. It grinds wheat, rye and corn; it also crushes corn. The mill is the property of the Stegall family. It was one of the first mills of its kind established in upper Gilmer, and began operations while Indians were still here. Earlier still were the mills established at Talloney Mission near Talking Rock.

April 17. O'Jay Bedspread Company of Dalton is distributing bedspreads in homes of western Gilmer; and, after the spreads have been worked with designs, the company's representative comes back and picks them up.

Work is well begun on the new $45,000 public school building at Ellijay.

The cold storage plant is also in course of construction there.

April 27. J. K. Buffington dies suddenly while out in distant woods helping to fight forest fires. He was a son of E. Buffington, honored friend of foundational education in Gilmer.

May 1. Chattahoochee National forest area is reorganized and expanded into three ranger districts with headquarters at Clayton, Suches and Blue Ridge.

Gilmer students are benefitting through NYA.

May 30. John M. Greer, 69, dies. He was a son of pioneer L. M. Greer.

June 1. Extensions are made on rural mail routes 1 and 2 and Tails Creek route is lengthened by several miles into Murray county.

June 7. W. T. Pickett, born Nov. 10, 1872, dies in Atlanta. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Pickett. He was long a worthy citizen of East Ellijay and Ellijay.

June 12. A rural electric line is extended six miles south of Ellijay by the Georgia Power Company. It was completed September 25.

June 19. Engineers who have spent six months at Ellijay surveying lands to be embraced in the U. S. forest reserves complete their task.

June 29. Billy Hunt, 72, dies in an accident near Durango, Colorado. He was the father of Mrs. Jack Pinson. Born in Gilmer County in 1864, he had lived in the vicinity of Durango for 47 years.

July 1. The county board of education lengthens the public school term from five to six months.

A new mail route between Emma, in Dawson county, and Ellijay is established eastward along the ancient route to Dahlonega. The daily round trip begins at Emma. Known as a consolidated star route, this service will accomodate Johnstown, Cartecay, Oak Hill post offices and all boxes. At Emma the new route will connect for Dawsonville and other points east.

July 2. Fannin county's courthouse burns. Destroyed records and files dated back to the time of the separation of Fannin from Gilmer Dec. 21, 1854. Modern microfilming is preventing many such appalling losses.

July 16. Contract for the construction of Henry Grady highway is upheld by the state supreme court.

Aug. 14. Gilmer donates $910 and a lot of land to Fort Mountain Park.

Sept. 7. Tennessee Copper Company purchases the Ducktown Chemical and Iron Company, thus stepping to the front among manufacturers of sulphuric acid.

Not only is Gilmer geographically related to this copper bearing area: this county once had copper mines and smelters that went with territory surrendered to help form Fannin county. The "copper basin" has helped Gilmer economically. It has given us a study of labor relations in a field employing some 1250 men with a monthly payroll of $150,000.

Sept. 24. Edwin Kell, only 26 years old, dies. A likeable young man of promise.

Oct. 9. A cold storage plant is completed at Ellijay. The two-story structure, 52 by 102 feet, will accommodate 30,000 boxes of apples. A warehouse, a place for mixing fertilizers, and a cannery are also contemplated.

Oct. 20. A new public school building is being inspected at Ellijay. The building, constructed of brick and wood, has an auditorium seating 600, steam heat, electric lighting already installed, and modern sanitation. But its engineers so far have failed to put it fully above the highest high waters of the Ellijay river.

Nov. 6. Every state in the Union except Vermont goes for Franklin D. Roosevelt for President. Bucktown, in Eastern Gilmer, casts all its 48 votes for Landon, his opponent.

Kyanite deposits on the Ed Parks place on Boardtown are leased to miners.
Nov. 27. Fish and deer are released in Chattahoochee national forest.

1937

The State Welfare Department began to function this year.
Jan. 22.

Earnest Parker celebrates the Gilmer custom of tufting bedspreads in homes.

Working Spreads

When the morning meal is over,
And the chickens have been fed;
Then the women grab a needle,
Go to working on a spread.
Back and fourth they wield the needle,
Filled with blue and white and red;
Till they've covered all the surface
Of a 'leven quarter spread.
'Tis a rush from morn till evening,
With no time for baking bread;
For it takes the daylight hours
For the working of a spread.
But it's great to be a tufter—
You can surely earn your bread;
You can make a quarter daily
If you are fast at working spreads.

Jan. 27.
Rev. Thomas A. Brown dies at his home near Eton. He was a native of Gilmer County and was long an honored citizen here.

Feb. 19. Will C. Smith of Roy suggests Gilmer farmers raise more tobacco for the market. Since pioneer days some Gilmer farmer have raised tobacco, but rarely attempted to produce a surplus for the market. Some of our earliest settlers brought with them experience in raising the plant.

Feb. 28. Tracks left in the snow proved the undoing of two men in Cherry Log district. After they had reportedly robbed a store, they were easily tracked up by the sheriff.

Mar. 13. S. W. Parks dies at his Cartecay home.

Apr. 9. More purebred cattle are brought into Gilmer.

Apr. 15. Serious hailstorm strikes portions of County.

Apr. 29. Dr. N. C. Goss dies at his home in Ellijay. Dr. Goss was 74. He graduated, in 1890, from Southern Medical college. He returned to Gilmer and settled at Cartecay. In 1913 he moved to Ellijay, where he continued practice until about 1931, when his health began to decline. Among survivors are his wife and two half-brothers, W. M. Mashburn and Tom Mashburn.

May 14. C. F. Owen, editor of the Ellijay Times-Courier, announces he will vote against repeal of Georgia's Prohibition Law. "And, in case prohibition loses, this paper will not accept liquor advertisements."

May 29. Mrs. Mike McKinney, 95, once a resident of Ellijay, dies in Marietta. Her husband died in 1925.

June 7-12
Second-hand school books bought as Georgia begins furnishing free texts.

June 8.
Gilmer votes heavily against repeal of prohibition law.

June 11.
G. L. Withrow, descendant of pioneers Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Withrow from N. C., dies in Mountaintown district.

June 22.
A. J. Pinson dies suddenly upon reaching Canton hospital.

For 28 years sheriff and deputy sheriff of Gilmer, he was first elected sheriff in 1899, again in 1928.

Among survivors are a son, Robert, and a daughter, Mrs. E. W. Watkins of Blue Ridge.

June 25.
The CCC Camp at Ellijay, discontinued, removes its 25 tenants to Holly Springs camp.

June 27.
Mrs. Lizzie Osborn, 73, dies at home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gudger. Widow of the late John Osborn, only son of the late Rev. N. L. Osborn, she was a daughter of Monroe Parks. For many years she was a member of a Baptist church.

July
Public assistance payments begin, going to the aged, the blind and to dependent children.

July 2.
Miss Florence Simmons named director of the department of public welfare of Gilmer County.

July 9. Funeral for J. A. Lambert of Coosawattee district is held.

July 13. Mrs. Elizabeth Waddell Mullinax, widow of Marion Mullinax, Union soldier, dies at the age of 90.

July 14. J. K. McCutchen leases a two-story brick building that was formerly the Gilmer County High school building in Ellijay and begins repairing and remodeling it in preparation for the manufacture of bedspreads. The new plan will suspend the making of candlewick bedspreads in homes.

Aug. 3. Buses for high school students attending Ellijay school are authorized. The vehicles will be limited to north and south highways.

Aug. 13. Ellijay cold storage plant for apples is operating.

Oct. 1. J & C Spread Co. starts construction of a 30 by 50 feet annex to its building. This will house machinery for laundering bedspreads.

Oct. 7. Mrs. Sarah Weaver celebrates her 100th birthday. She died the 8th of the following December.

She was the widow of the late Henry L. Weaver, a Confederate veteran, and was a native of Union county, Georgia, where she was born Oct. 7, 1837,

a daughter of Miles and Jenny Southern. Her husband, to whom she was married Dec. 24, 1860, died in 1893. She was a Primitive Baptist.

Oct. 8. An acute housing shortage exists at Ellijay.

Oct. 11-16. Gilmer County Fair is open.

Nov. 12. Work starts on the Farmer's Warehouse at Ellijay. The structure was completed Feb. 21, 1938, when Messrs. O'Dell and Gunnels move in. Fertilizer, seed, and other supplies will be dispensed from it.

Nov. 27. Miss Pink Welch, 77, dies at her Ellijay home in the room where she was born. She was a daughter of Maj. and Mrs. W. R. Welch. She is survived by a brother, R. C. Welch, and a sister, Mrs. J. N. Brown, of Hiawassee.

Dec. 22. Eight Confederate widows are added to Gilmer pension rolls: Mrs. Wiley Pankey, Mrs. Martha Dorsey, Mrs. Mary Whisenant, Mrs. Frank Ellington, Mrs. Tilda Starks, Mrs. Samantha Etris, Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. F. M. Pierce.

Dec. 24. Fear is being expressed that the new law enacted by the legislature to exempt from taxation $300 worth of personal property and $2,000 on homestead valuation will deprive the County of taxes in nearly all its 15 militia districts. A November check up shows that only a few more than 30 persons would be paying any taxes. It also reveals that, in five of the districts, there is no taxpayer at all.

1938

Early in the year the death of Robert Marcus Hunt, resident of Hay Gulch, Colorado, is recorded. Mr. Hunt was born at Ellijay in 1850. He once resided at White Path, where the Hunts were prominently identified with progress.

Jan. 1. Gilmer has 362 "covered workers" who may become eligible for compensation in case of a loss of employment.

Jan. 3. John M. Tucker, partly Cherokee, dies in Boardtown at 92. A kindly old man, always sympathetic, helpful and neighborly; charitable to a degree.

Jan. 7. Will N. Shippen blasts the disposition of famous "fumes" cases against copper companies in Copper Hill basin.

Jan. 10. Public school pupils and members of the Glee Club of Ellijay present a program over WSB radio station, Atlanta.

Jan. 14. Whitestone crushing plants are operating full blast. They recently shifted from steam to electric power.

Jan. 20. Mrs. Eliza Weaver, 92, dies at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Garrett, Ellijay. Her maiden name was Miss Eliza Akins. She was a native of Aiken, South Carolina, where she was born Jan. 7, 1846. She was married to Henry Weaver, who died in 1918.

Immediate survivors are: daughters, Mrs. J. M. Garrett, Mrs. J. B. Hipp; sons, J. L. Weaver, W. M. Weaver, B. P. Weaver.

Feb. 11. J & C Bedspread enlarges its plant with a 60 by 100 foot building.

Feb. 23. East Ellijay schoolhouse burns. By the close of the year it has been replaced.

Feb. 25. W. E. Rackley, popular sheriff, dies. A generous friend and of pleasant personality, he was member of a pioneer family noted for its habits of friendliness and hospitality. He is survived by two sons, Ed Rackley Jr. and Roy Rackley, and a daughter, Miss Winnie Rackley.

March 27. The death of Samuel J. Sorrells, 70, is announced. Mr. Sorrells once pioneered it on Flat Mountain, and he related many interesting and stirring tales of his early days up there on the lonely mountainous northern edge of Gilmer County. He also sang entertainingly old ballads and other forms of folk songs learned in his boyhood. He taught school about Ludville (in Pickens county), and raised a family there, his friends say.

April 17. Heavy rains and washouts along the L & N railroad south of Ellijay force suspension of train service for more than a week. Thirteen persons drown at Whitestone. Flood waters around Ellijay are said to have reached an all-time high.

May 20. The library at Ellijay High school reports growth from 550 volumes to more than 2,000. The library adopts a check on student use of its facilities and each person's conduct therein.

June 7. Plans are made for the transportation of high school students of Oakland and Henry Grady schools to Ellijay and back, this step being to facilitate them in their high school studies.

June 15. J. H. (Duck) Ray, 86, dies at his home in the Turniptown area.

July 3. H. W. Hampton and James Tankersley, both of Ellijay, open the "Fort," a new movie theater at Chatsworth.

July 6. W. G. Wingate, now occupying the former Nat Pratt place in Leaches district, is reported as operating three apple orchards that total 15,000 trees.

July 7. Mrs. Charity Holden, 70, dies at White Path. He maiden name was May. She was a sister to Owen May and a daughter of Bill May.

July 11. John M. Parks, 94, Confederate veteran, dies at Calhoun, and is buried in Gilmer. He was born March 5, 1845, in Buncombe county, North Carolina. He settled in Gilmer in 1845. During the Civil War he served in Co. H, First Georgia Troops under Joe Brown.

Sept. 6. Work starts on a third enlargement of the J & C Bedspread plant. Plans specify a building 40 by 100 feet.

Oct. 4. The old Federal Road, which traverses a portion of Coosawattee district for an approximate distance of six miles, is placed on the state system of roads for maintenance and later construction.

Oct. 11. Sam Tate, 78, dies at his home at Tate. He was a great-grandson of pioneer John I. Tate, who was a resident of Gilmer County, and is buried at Ellijay Cemetery.

Oct. 24. Wages and hour law goes into effect here as elsewhere.

Oct. 30. Ellijay contracts for the digging of a well to augment its water supply, the vote for the bonds to do so having carried October 23 with one voter opposing.

Nov. 14. The new school gymnasium at Ellijay is dedicated.

Nov. 22. Mrs. J. P. Cobb, Mrs. R. C. Welch, Miss Annie Stembridge and Miss Winifred Hudson show plaques and pictures of their own creation at an exhibit sponsored by the Ellijay Woman's club. Numerous antiques were also shown.

Dec. 1. Last rites are held at Ellijay for Mrs. W. C. Chastain, wife of Dr. W. C. Chastain. She was a former teacher in the County, and was deeply and intelligently interested in the cultural background of our region.

Dec. 11. Dr. B. L. Camp opens a temporary office in the Cole building, Ellijay.

Dec. 12. The REA is established at Jasper, and will serve the electric needs of people in Gilmer, Pickens, Cherokee and Dawson counties.

Dec. 20. John W. Ray dies in an auto accident half a mile south of Ellijay.

Dec. 23. The J & C Bedspread Company entertains 600 employees at a Christmas party at Ellijay.

Dec. 27. Oakland schoolhouse originally built 1929 to 1930 at a cost of at least $65,000, is destroyed by fire. It was a ten-room brick and wood structure and the seating was excellent. It was easy then, the depression being on, to get the choicest building materials at very reasonable prices. And it was, in all respects, built of the best materials the market offered.

Dec. 28. Frank E. Shippen, former Ellijay resident, dies in Kentucky. He was the youngest son of Edward and Ellen Stokes Shippen, and was born Dec. 31, 1867, in Illinois, and was brought up in Louisville, Ky. In 1897 he and his brother, W. H. Shippen, came to Ellijay and formed the Shippen Brothers Lumber Company.

Gilmer County farmers are said to be earning a little over half the amount available to them under the Agricultural Conservation program for soil building. The value of manufactured goods in the County for the year is placed at $586,000.

1939

Jan. 1. Unemployment compensation law, in effect for a year, pays claims amounting to $35,153.84 in 1938.

Feb. 2. W. M. Ray dies at the age of 91.

Feb. 17. We present some salient facts in the record of Dr. A. C. Ayers, Gilmer native, now a resident of Atlanta. Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Ayers of Ellijay, he was raised on a farm in Cartecay district. As part of his earlier period of employment, he taught school in Cherokee and Gilmer counties.

In 1913 he entered the Southern College of Pharmacy. After his graduation there, Dr. Ayers was employed in a drug store in Tennessee. Having removed to Atlanta, he enlisted in the army in World War I, in which service he remained two years. Afterward he settled in the West End section of Atlanta and became connected with Medlock's Pharmacy May 4, 1919. In this work he remained for a number of years. As a member of the West End Business Men's association, he became its first secretary, serving two terms in that capacity. He was a member of the American Legion, board of Stewards of the Park Street Methodist church, director of the Tammany club and of the Atlanta Federal Savings and Loan association; member of the Atlanta City Planning commission; secretary-treasurer of the Fifth District Pharmaceutical association; is also a Mason and a Shriner.

Feb. 20. Mrs. J. R. Goble dies. Mrs. Goble, 66, was a descendant of Henry Gartrell, pioneer, of the Whitestone community.

March 25. Mrs. Louisa A. Plemmons of Boardtown dies. She was 87 years old. She was born Nov. 13, 1851. She is survived by sons, W. L., J. C., Will, Tom, Ernest, Forrest; daughters, Mrs. W. I. McVey, Mrs. Ab Holt, Mrs. Lorena Fain.

Aug. 31. Mrs. Nancy Parks, widow of Frank Parks, dies at the home of her son, Rev. W. E. Parks, in Ellijay.

1940

Jan. 1. Dr. Grady N. Coker opens a four-bed clinic upstairs in the Logan building. Dr. James F. O'Daniel and Dr. Charles R. Andrews are to operate it, and 20 rooms are to be occupied.

During this month numerous meetings of the rural folk are held to discuss the procuring of REA power lines.

Jan. 10. The Cole Drug business is transferred to Drs. C. A. Whitfield and A. B. Alldred.

Jan. 18. Leading Gilmer farmers contribute to test demonstrations in the use of fertilizers on their lands.

Jan. 23. Schools close for a week on account of the intense cold and eight inches of snow. Bus and mail service is much hampered and disrupted. Fourteen below zero is reported; an all-time low of 17 below zero is recorded in Walker county, while an unofficial 18 is reported from the ranger's house on Flat Mountain. Ice skating is enjoyed. But bird life suffers.

Jan. 25. One of the most remarkable acts of heroism ever to occur in our region is reported from the upper Jack River area. Thomas Dean, a high school boy of Blue Ridge, reveals a grim courage of the highest order in a blizzard that raged that day.

Mrs. Hoyt Seabolt, wife of Game Warden Hoyt Seabolt, engaged another youth to take her from Blue Ridge to her home on upper Jack River, 15 miles west of Blue Ridge. The young man who contracted to transport Mrs. Seabolt asked young Dean to go along, and Dean consented to do so. The three set out in an automobile.

But the car, still five miles short of the Seabolt home, bogged down in the snowdrifts. The other young man of the party undertook the care of the car while young Dean walked the rest of the way with Mrs. Seabolt. At the end of three miles, in the teeth of the storm, Mrs. Seabolt's strength began to fail, and she mumbled that she was too weak to go on. And young Dean didn't know the way and depended upon her guidance to her home! He led her as long as she could walk; then, seeing she could go no farther, he hoisted her to his back and shoulder, grasping her freezing hands in front of him. Both slowly froze as he floundered along in temperatures reportedly 14 below zero.

Since Dean had never been along the road before, every painful step put him farther right or wrong. The snow glared dimly so that he could see better than he could have done without it. It was getting far into the night. He finally came to a fork in the road. But by this time Mrs. Seabolt had lost consciousness. Since they had turned south at Watson Gap, they hadn't passed a single house. Dean merely guessed he should go to the right.

He guessed right.

Farther on he might have heard, from a lower level, the babbling of Jack River, dumb now under its burden of snow and ice. He declined to go down another rugged road along the creek. He continued his slipping and struggling by a long loop upstream. This brought him to the bridge across Jack River. From there he could see a house and a light in it, though both were much obscured by the still flying snow.

He found a walkway near the stream, and up that he strode. He wasn't sure Mrs. Seabolt was still alive. But he stumbled up the low steps of the home and delivered Mrs. Seabolt to her husband—who happened to be still up. Young Mr. Dean's hands and feet were frozen.

Mrs. Seabolt came slowly to consciousness and thawed out in great pain. Next day she reportedly was afflicted with a serious blistering that prompted her people to take her to Blue Ridge for medical care. It took those transporting her from early morning till 2 p.m. in the afternoon to get away from the house and into the road. The party followed a "CC" road through Gilmer County and the long, mountainous way around, utilizing a tractor to do so. And when Mrs. Seabolt finally reached Ellijay she was still as far from Blue Ridge as she was before she left home. But she made it.

Feb. 6. Gilmer extends its public school term from five to seven months.

Feb. 15. Ellijay school wins an honor cup in a polio drive.

Ellijay has organized bowling.

March 1. Ellijay Baptists vote to support a full time pastor.

March 7. Ellijay launches a plan to double the capacity of a system of water supply begun in 1931.

March 10. Ike Stone, 94, Union veteran, former resident of Gilmer, dies in Lumpkin County.

March 16. Cicero Mercer Tatum, born July 1, 1855, dies. His wife, Lillie T. Tatum (born May 26, 1857, and dying Nov. 5, 1905), and he are both buried at Pleasant Hill church. This couple is survived by a daughter, Mrs. E. F. Hill; and a son, W. C. Tatum.

Little Shirley Cantrell, age three, lost for 30 hours when she wanders from her home six miles east of Ellijay, is found alive. But her companion in play, Jerry Rogers, age four, drowns in the Cartecay river.

March 23. Gilmer votes to establish the Limestone Valley Conservation district, to consist of Gilmer, Murray, Whitfield counties.

April 4. The WPA (a relief plan) begins in Gilmer, employing around 300 persons. Among the "projects" carried through were: improved roads and streets; fourteen new wooden bridges; repair of 15,264 culverts; nearly 1400 feet of sidewalks laid down; 450 feet of gutters placed.

WPA workmen assisted in the construction of the new Ellijay schoolhouse and gymnasium; the County Club house and the jail are repaired; a farmers warehouse and a community house are built at Ellijay, where a small park is also developed; 137 adults are taught to read and write; a sewing room that turned out 26,893 garments for the needy should be included; likewise a book repair plan that renovated 2,000 volumes.

April 7. Mrs. R. W. Smith speaks over Radio WSB on progress in Gilmer County.

L. E. Bishop, 68, dies in Cartersville. A son of Alfred Bishop, L. E. was born and reared in Ellijay, where his father was a prominent merchant, occupying the location of the present-day Waters Brothers store. Among survivors are his wife, the former Miss Lura Greer, and two daughters; two sons, Lafayette and Boy.

April 10. The REA begins operations. It has a record of business-like handling of every transaction placed in its hands.

April 23. Z. I. Addington, 90, a native of Gilmer, dies at Clermont, where he had resided the last 20 years. He had lived most of his life in Hall county. He was a Confederate veteran. Mr. Addington appears to have belonged to one of Gilmer County's earliest white families. Surviving sons are Z. I., A. S.; and daughters, Mrs. Pearl Tolbert, Mrs. Alma Cobb, Mrs. W. A. Narvell, Mrs. Jennie Trout, Mrs. Clara Ervin.

May 2. Excavation for a cotton mill, adjunct of the J & C Bedspread Company, is completed. The plant is designed to manufacture thread to go into the making of J & C bedspreads. The structure will be two-story, brick, facing 85 feet on Dodge Street and running back along Mulberry 200 feet. It will be separated from the bedspread plant by a few feet only.

May 3. John P. Evans, 83 years old to a day, dies in Clear creek community. Among survivors are sons, Charley, Henry; daughters, Mrs. Carrie Moore, Mrs. Melinda Kinser, Mrs. Dona Powell, Mrs. Nita Haygood.

May 10. Robert A. Pinson, 60, dies at his Ellijay home. He was a member of a very early pioneer family, being the son of A. J. Pinson. He is survived by daughters, Miss Edna Pinson and Mrs. Gabe Garrard; one son, Robert Pinson.

May 23. The plan for manufacturing cotton mattresses, designed to consume surplus cotton and to provide mattresses for low income families, meets its challenge with more than 1,000 completed mattresses.

June 9. Lake Connasauga is opened on the northwest mountainous border of the County.

G. W. Mooney Sr. dies at his home at Quill.

June 13. NYA opportunities are offered ambitious students. This was one of the really worthwhile phases of "work relief" during depression years.

July 1. The PWA, co-operating with county and local civic organizations, opens a library at the courthouse, Mrs. Manley Cox acting as librarian. The J & C Bedspread Company, the City of Ellijay and the Ellijay Woman's club are local sponsors.

July 18. John Duckett, bearer of a notable name, dies on Holly creek. He was born at Ellijay Nov. 22, 1870. He was a former construction foreman at Birmingham, Alabama.

Sept. 2. Ellijay High school registers 631 attendance the first day. This is a marked increase in enrollment and indicates the growth of Ellijay and surrounding areas as well as the effects of transportation and the management of the school. By the close of the year enrollment had reached 705, with 24 teachers. Typing and bookkeeping have been added to the curriculum. Some students take commercial courses at night.

Sept. 5. Columbus Roberts announces himself locally as a candidate for governor of Georgia. He would have added stature to the position, honoring the office instead of being honored by it. Being able to pay his own way, he could have shaken off that horde that always has its hands out for favors after the election. The man who is elected by other people's money is certainly under obligations. But he shouldn't be paying his debts with public money, either directly or indirectly.

Columbus Roberts lost the race but he did not lose honor. He demonstrated again that the biggest and best men seldom hold public office, a terrific loss to the general welfare.

Oct. 16. Men 16 to 35 inclusive are required to register for military draft.

Oct. 23. Gilmer Draft board is organized and consists of W. E. Parks, W. K. Reece, R. C. Stembridge. Parks was elected chairman; M. C. Simmons, clerk; Dr. J. F. O'Daniel, medical advisor; A. H. Burtz, appeal agent.

Willis Albert Grizzle, Talking Rock, Rt. 1, was the first drawn in the draft.

Nov. 5. F. D. Roosevelt carries Gilmer in his third-term bid for the presidency. But Bucktown district goes solidly against him.

Nov. 23. Barney Holt, 69, dies at his East Ellijay home. Among survivors is Norman, a son.

Dec. 7. Bus service has moved up to two round trips daily from Dalton to Ellijay. Heretofore it has been making only one such trip except on Saturdays and Sundays, when it made two.

Dec. 10. Dr. Luke I. Foster of Ellijay dies while on his way to Atlanta for medical care for himself. He came to Ellijay about 1935. A graduate of Boston College and the University of Tennessee, he is described as kind and sympathetic in his nature, and reasonable and considerate in his charges.

Dec. 17. Howard Simmons succeeds P. L. Watson as postmaster at Ellijay.

The population of Ellijay increases from 657 in 1930 to 1489 in 1940.

1941

Ellijay First Methodist church goes to full time. W. L. Jolly is pastor. Rev. Michael Fryga will assume the rural work of this denomination.

Jan. 1. Engineers begin surveying REA lines totaling 140 miles. Lines begin at Ellijay, with power supplied by the Georgia Power company. One line is to run out Yukon Road to Pickens county; another eastward to Dawson county; two lines north—one line following the Blue Ridge highway to Lucius, the other traversing Flat Branch and Boardtown sections; another out Chatsworth Road to the E. E. Tankersley place; one out Tails Creek Road to Tails Creek post office site.

Jan. 4. Bill Johnson dies at Ellijay. His funeral was held at Ellijay Jan. 6.

Jan. 5. Thomas Y. Penland, 90, dies at Ellijay. He was twice married, first to Miss Hulda Orr; a second wife was Miss Mary Cochran of Dawson county.

Among survivors are: sons, S. O., J. H., D. G.; daughters, Mrs. J. J. Withrow, Mrs. C. A. Woodward, Mrs. W. A. Johnson, Mrs. Paul Hensley. Mrs. H. E. Kemp is a daughter by his second wife.

Jan. 9. The steady growth of Ellijay schools has been substantial, as shown by enrollments by years: 1937-38, 440; for 1938-39, 576; for 1939-40, 642; for 1940-41, 724.

Jan. 29. Notice is published of plan to incorporate East Ellijay and to repeal an act of incorporation approved Aug. 4, 1903. At this period some recognized streets of the town were Hill, Sunset Avenue, Shepard Road, Yukon Drive, Milton.

March 1. Charlie Ray, among the best of our citizenship, one time Gilmer teacher, dies. He was among students drawn from the County to Morganton during the leadership there of S. Emmet Stephens.

March 3. Rev. J. E. Tallant, once principal of the Ellijay Seminary and Ellijay pastor, dies in Detroit.

March 7. Mrs. T. H. Tabor dies. She was the widow of Thomas H. Tabor. Her maiden name was Miss Laura Cox. Among survivors are Fred C. Tabor, Herbert Tabor of Ellijay; and one daughter, Mrs. J. H. Jackson, Tignall.

March 18. Thomas M. Bell, who long served Gilmer as a congressman, dies at Gainesville.

March 27. Jack Ellington, 29, friend of this History, dies at Camp Stewart, near Savannah. A loss to the talented younger life of our County.

April 10. Transportation of students north and south to Ellijay school by bus is begun.

April 13. T. A. Dotson, father of 16 children—eight sons and eight daughters—dies.

April 24. W. R. O'Dell, Gilmer County farm agent, announces that Stokley Brothers canning company offers to buy large amounts of snap beans from Gilmer gardeners. This initiated an important truck crop.
Mattresses are being made in the office of the County Agent.

Efforts are being made to wean Gilmer farmers from what little cotton they have been growing; potatoes, peas and beans are cited to replace cotton.

May 14. Grading of the highway eastward to Gainesville is completed.

May 17. Cherry Log REA line is energized. The line follows the main highway almost to the Fannin county line. The County now has 123 miles of line serving 436 families.

May 29. The Ellijay Times-Courier lists recipients of "old age assistance." The rather startling list includes persons formerly among the wealthiest in the County, once again emphasizing how prone to take wings wealth may be.

June 21. A new pastor's home is completed by Ellijay Baptists.

June 30. Gilmer County Commodity warehouse, during the past year, has distributed to an average of 343 families surplus foods valued at $10,952.15 and household and clothing items valued at $9,355.00. This shows the depression was still burdening, but not as badly as at many other places.

July 10. Seven north Georgia counties, including Gilmer, organize in a non-profit plan of marketing farm products.

July 26. Amicalola Electric Membership corporation energizes new power lines. It announces 370 miles of line completed and serving 800 to 1,000 customers, part of these in Gilmer.

Aug. 31. Repairs of Oakland Schoolhouse are completed.

Sept. 22. Ex-Judge Newt A. Morris, once a storm-center political figure in Gilmer Democratic circles, dies in Marietta. Judge Morris did little compromising in his Democracy, so became a controversial figure.

Oct. 2. J. B. Hipp dies. He was genuine in citizenship and friendship, and was devoted in his church relations.

His survivors are his wife, who was Miss Azilee Weaver, sister of James L. Weaver; daughters, Mrs. Wilson Warlick, Mrs. J. M. Killian, Mrs. David Arp, Miss Josephine Hipp.

Oct. 9. Lend-lease, that cost us billions, is in full swing. It gave us the Russian problem and all the colossal evils yet to come.

Oct. 23. NYA offers employment to youths 16 to 24, just the right age to propagandize for a new war already in the making.

Nov. 6. A salute to Gilmer is recorded by WSB, Atlanta, in the new school auditorium at Ellijay. The recording was broadcast on Nov. 8.

Nov. 19. John Calvin Walker dies. He is survived by sons, B. C., W. D., C. N. and J. L.; daughters, Mrs. Ora West, Mrs. Era Kennemur.

Mr. Walker first married Miss Mary Griffith, who died. His second wife was Miss Lula Thompson. He was a useful and public-spirited citizen. His father, Isaac Newton Walker, was a Confederate veteran.

Dec. 8. War upon Japan is declared.

1942

Jan. 1. U. N. begins for us.

W. B. James becomes postmaster at Ellijay. He succeeds Howard Simmons.

Jan. 8. Gilmer nears its $1,000 Red Cross quota, which was reached.

Jan. 22. Mayor George W. Harris dies at College Park. George was a natural leader, a diplomat and friend. He was a gifted public speaker. He was a native of Cherry Log district, where he spent much of his youth.

Jan. 29. The board of trustees of Ellijay school district announce a bond election to be held February 28 for the sum of $15,000.

W. L. Harper acquires the variety store of Miss Mary Withrow.

Feb. 5. The announcement is made that $9,748.75 was paid to 1,725 unemployed Gilmerites in 1941.

Electric welding is being taught in Ellijay.

W. G. Wingate, apple grower, purchases the cold storage plant at Ellijay.

Feb. 8. Gilmer sets a date for "selective service" registration for persons 19 to 64, both inclusive.

Our nation plunges into the so-called Atlantic Charter, joining up with Russia, China and 23 other nations.

Feb. Teachers of the County are solicited to register, for selective service, persons 20 to 44 inclusive at school houses. On Feb. 16 we hear that 500 have been enrolled.

Feb. 26. The CCC goes on a "wartime basis." That very purpose could have been basic in the organization from its beginning.

Feb. 28. School bonds for $15,000 are approved by Ellijay school district. The proceeds from the sale of bonds will be applied to the high school building.

March 2. A heavy snow falls on the north side of the Blue Ridge. At the head of Big creek the snow is reported to have been two feet deep, and to have drifted to four.

March 11. The County Library has 985 registered borrowers.

March 19. The J & C Bedspread Plant and Thread Mill expand floor space to include a new office building in front of the present office; and a new storage room 70 by 200 feet.

March 23. Mail service from Jasper is extended northward by way of Ellijay. This plan gives Ellijay three mails a day both north and south.

March 28. William Griffith (a name familiar among our earliest whites), 82, of Klamath county, Oregon, dies there. Among daughters surviving are Mrs. Sarah Lewis, Mrs. Cora White; and sons, Levi, Ben, Frank; a sister, Mrs. Jane Cloniger, died in Gilmer County, May 18, 1942.

April 2. Construction on a new warehouse is begun by J & C Bedspread Company.

April 6. John M. Lattie dies at his home in Mountaintown district.

April 9. Myron E. Freeman property, near East Ellijay, burns.

April 17. Mrs. Addie Heath, 99, dies in Ellijay. She was born May 7, 1842.

April 19. The Ellijay Clinic closes.

April 25. Three young Englishmen visit Ellijay, and they are much impressed

JAMES L. WEAVER

A foremost public spirit. He served in both the House and the Senate of the Georgia Legislature. He was also clerk of the court in Gilmer County and postmaster at Ellijay. He was devoted to progress for all and the common welfare.

with this section.

April 29. Men between 45 and 65 are being registered for war service.

April 30. Destructive woods fires are being better controlled, due to stepped up law enforcement, co-operation of government personnel, and persistent teaching of forest protection.

May 1. J. W. McArthur dies at his home in Cartecay.

May 3. James L. Weaver, 73, dies at his home in Ellijay after an illness of two years. Mr. Weaver attended the rural schools and Ellijay seminary. A native of Tickanetley, he came to Ellijay about 1897 and was employed by Goode Simmons, a prominent merchant of those days. He married Miss Mary Fincannon of his old home community.

He was a foremost public spirit, and served in both the house and the senate of the Georgia Legislature. He was also clerk of the court in Gilmer County and postmaster at Ellijay.

He was survived by a son, James, and a daughter, Mrs. H. C. Gannaway.

May 28. Chattahoochee National Forest is closed to sportsmen on account of too many fires carelessly set by visitors.

June 19. Fred Reece dies of injuries received when he is run over by a truck.

June 30. Registration comes round again, this time for possible military service for young men 18 to 20. This is the fifth registration of the nation's manpower.

July 1. The post office at Ellijay becomes second class.

July 16. Taxable property values rise $42,289 above 1941.

July 23. Gilmer County library reopens.

July 28. Judge J. C. Allen dies at Ellijay. He was a son of Capt. Billy Allen, officer in suppressing the Seminole Indians. He was born Sept. 30, 1850. He taught school in Gilmer County in 1873, the first year the public school system began to function. He once owned the Ellijay Courier, and was ordinary of the County some 25 years. He helped prepare the first land lot map of Gilmer County, based on the original survey of 1832.

His wife, who died in 1927, was Miss Kate Perry.

Aug. 20. The Bond-Woolf Lumber Company establishes itself at the former Shippen Brothers location.

Aug. 31. Ellijay High school opens with its new building but partly ready for use.

Sept. 2. W. S. Henson dies at his East Ellijay home.

Sept. 3. In a practical and understandable effort to get paving completed on the Chatsworth Road, Joe McCutchen appeals to Gilmer voters to elect Ellis Arnall governor.

Gilmer is using the secret Australian ballot system.

Sept. 24. The CCC is out of its original business but it can still help wage war.

Sept. 26. Mrs. A. M. Johnson dies at her home in East Ellijay.

Mrs. Mamie Holt Adams, wife of Dr. C. M. Adams of Atlanta, dies at her 23 West Pace's Ferry Road home. She was a daughter of pioneer Osborn Holt. Mrs. Adams studied at the old Ellijay Seminary, and once taught school in Gilmer County. Her mother's maiden name was Miss Wilson. Mrs. Adams was a generous consultant in the production of this History.

Oct. 1. C. W. Kiker acquires land for an extensive lumber yard just south of the Coosawattee river between the Atlanta highway and the L & N railroad.

Nov. 1. Rev. J. W. Duvall dies.

Nov. 3. J. H. Cooley succeeds W. R. Odell as county agent. Mr. Odell has made a notable record.

Nov. 4. Watkins Edwards resigns the office of commissioner of roads and revenues, and is succeeded by W. L. Harper.

Nov. 5. Railroad section crews build a switch to accommodate the Kiker Lumber Company. Around the plant quite a village has since grown up.

Nov. 12. Streams of Gilmer County are again restocked with fish.

Nov. 16. S. Gordon Dover, prominent business leader of Ellijay, dies in Atlanta. Survivors include his wife and two sons, Alba and Hansel. Mr. Dover was a man of high quality citizenship and business ethics.

Dec. 1. Myron E. Freeman, prominent jeweler of Atlanta, is fatally stricken at his Gilmer County home.

Dec. 8. Ed. H. Rackley resigns as sheriff and is succeeded by Foster Milton, appointed until an election can be held.

Dec. 12. Coosawattee, Leaches, Town Creek, Ball Ground and Ellijay districts conduct a referendum on the cultivation of cotton.

Ca. Dec. 17. B. C. Logan Sr., upon acquiring C. B. Kelly farm in the V formed by the confluence of the Ellijay and Cartecay rivers, opens the way for an improved road eastward from Ellijay.

Dec. 24. WPA programs are scheduled to close. The usual cry was no money to continue the work. Yet, soon after, we began pouring out billions for Russia, China and other causes of about as little worth.

Dec. 31. W. B. James checks out as postmaster of Ellijay.

1943

Jan. 1. W. C. Reece succeeds W. B. James as postmaster at Ellijay.

Feb. 24. Under a new law, Ernest Hudson is named county commissioner, with an advisory commission consisting of Homer Hill and O. Shafter Aaron.

W. L. Harper, incumbent commissioner, charges that after serving but three months, he was ousted for spite rather than for progress. A law has since been passed to prevent such ousters if the incumbent can show his removal is threatened for reasons other than devotion to the public good.

March 4. Boris I. Mirkin, New York; Joseph S. Gurewicz, Ellijay; Boris S. Kolker and Joseph I. Kanters, Murphy, N. C., apply for incorporation at Ellijay as the North Georgia Lumber Company.

March 18. Pvt. William G. Ledford, Cherry Log, and St. Sgt. William Earl Douthit, Ellijay, are reported from the war front as lost in action.

April 8. Gilmer over-subscribes its Red Cross quota.

April 19. W. M. C. Sawyer, 81, dies at his East Ellijay home. Mr. Sawyer was a willing and valuable consultant on events of the past.

May 4. F. H. Wright, J. S. Nealey, Roland Nealey, W. M. Teague, Oscar Teague, Buster Moore, John D. Kinser, E. L. Teem, farmers, buy co-operatively a threshing machine for their communities.

R. C. Welch bids in the W. R. Welch estate at Ellijay for $13,050.

Owen May, 87, dies at White Path. A native of Fannin county, he came to White Path community when he was 12 years old and went to work in the gold mines. He also prospected and dug gold in several other counties. He was a genial and philosophic spirit, and a patient and generous consultant on things historical.

May 18. Miss Catherine Wingate becomes acting postmaster at Ellijay, succeeding W. C. Reece.

June 3. Gilmer almost doubles its quota for cancer control.

The Kiker Lumber plant south of Ellijay steadily expands. The 150 horsepower boiler of the plant is fired with wood scraps. The mill has a capacity of 300,000 feet of finished lumber daily. Steam dries the lumber. The steam is forced through the lumber one way for 36 hours, and is then reversed for the same length of time. The lumber is then ready for the planing mill.

Several tractors are kept busy moving lumber about the plant.

Lumber is supplied to this central plant by 16 mills scattered about the surrounding country. About 40 men are employed at the main plant.

June 7 to July 13. A summer school for teachers is conducted at Ellijay.

July 2. Robert L. Allen, member of a well known and honored Gilmer family dies at East Ellijay. Mr. Allen was a brother to Judge J. C. Allen and was an uncle to Roscoe Allen, distinguished teacher of the early years of this century.

July 29. Gilmer's main road into North Carolina, by way of Blue Ridge, is being surfaced and completed.

Aug. 12. Mrs. Emma Buffington has five sons in the armed forces.

Sept. 8. Peace with Italy is felt in Gilmer.

Oct. 2. A bond rally, in a third war drive, sells $150,000 worth of bonds. In all, more than $230,000 was raised—sales going more than $50,000 beyond the goal set for it.

Oct. 14. A blacksmith shop is installed by J. E. Weeks on Ellijay school premises. Charley Johnson is in charge. Service is free to those who wish to patronize the shop.

Oct. 15. Ellijay High school launches a school newspaper called the "Little Chief." Who let the little chief languish? It seems to us he deserved a better fate than suspension. Another paper (perhaps "The Big Chief" this time) should be launched and maintained.

Oct. 22. Boy Scout Troop 30, sponsored by Ellijay Lions, receives its charter.

Oct. 23. Sam B. Davis, 70, dies in Tails Creek district. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Davis, and is survived by children: Harley, Arthur, Arvil, Earl, Ernest, Myra, Morris, Mrs. Glenn Burgess, Mrs. Paul Burgess.

Dec. 13. Miss Lucille Mullinax and Edward Weaver are the first two 18-year-old voters under the new law lowering the voting age to 18.

Dec. 16. The old Federal road that crosses southwest Gilmer is being surveyed anew with the purpose to improve it.

Dec. 25. Robert Ralston, nearly 102 years old, dies in Coosawattee district. According to the old family Bible in his home, he was born January 20, 1842. So, if he had lived till January 20—less than a month—he would have been 102. He belonged to a prominent pioneer family.

Dec. 26. Mrs. Anna Tabor, 94, dies at Dahlonega. Her funeral was held at Cartecay December 28. Her maiden name was Miss Anna Cole. Her husband, T. W. Tabor, is deceased already.

Among survivors are three daughters, Mrs. L. U. Martin, Mrs. S. A. West, Mrs. F. B. Haigler; a sister, Mrs. Alice Henry; two brothers, John Cole and C. R. Cole.

Nalley and Nuckolls, International Harvester representatives, locate in Ellijay.

1944

This year begins with rationing, bond and Red Cross drives, calls for more armies and rosy promises of the bright new world this one would be after the war and the destruction of the German people. Some of the more rabid New Dealites urged that we declare war on Finland.

Gilmer is over-subscribing on bonds and the Red Cross.

Jan. 13. All kinds of schemes and salvaging are going on for the "war effort" and such vague purposes as "freedom," with the strikers getting their hand in.

March 30. Gilmer farmers are turning to Irish potatoes, snap beans, cabbage, hay, and permanent pastures; livestock, poultry and less cotton.

April 16. Dr. A. S. Holden dies in Atlanta. Among survivors are his wife; two sons, Dr. J. C. Holden, Lowry; a daughter, Miss Winnie Holden.

April 18. Mrs. H. H. Wright dies at Ellijay.

May 4. The government is setting up a stone crusher on the Tails Creek Road, near the home of B. J. Logan, for the purpose of graveling and improving the road for the transportation of lumber especially needed in the war effort.

May 19. Frank Ellington, journalist, editor, dies in New York. He was the son of Horace M. Ellington.

June 15. The Board of Education is short 17 teachers.

Sgt. Cleveland Mayfield is killed in action in England.

June 30. The Gilmer Public Welfare office, Miss Florence Simmons director, reports paying out more than $25,000 the past year in old age assistance, aid to the blind, and to dependent and crippled children.

July 3. Ensign Farris D. McArthur is killed in action.

July 22. George Tankersley dies at Copper Hill, Tenn.

July 27. Charlie C. Cox dies in Atlanta.

The following fatalities are reported from various points of the war involvement: Aug. 11, John Paul Waddell dies in England of war-incurred wounds; Aug. 20, Pfc. Lawrence Buchanan is drowned in France; Sept. 10. Herman E. Sanford is killed in action in France; Paul Hill dies in Georgia; Oct. 3, Luther Carroll is killed in the war.

Aug. 18. Rev. Lester Waters dies at his home in Gilmer County.

Sept. 14. The E. T. Thomas Bus line formerly operating between Ellijay and Dalton is extended eastward to Dahlonega.

Oct. 4. Mrs. Mary Frances Cox, 84, dies at Ellijay. A daughter of John P. Cobb, she was married in 1880 to M. L. (Mart) Cox.

Survivors include daughters, Miss Willie Cox, Mrs. Lillie Crawford, Miss Pearl Cox, Mrs. Berta Harland, Mrs. Edith Williams; sons, Dr. Clarence G. Cox, M. L. Cox, Manley A. Cox; also a sister, Mrs. J. W. Glenn; and three brothers, Walter V. Cobb, Nathan L. Cobb and William F. Cobb.

Oct. 19. The North Georgia Lumber Company, in employing women and girls in its plant, report them as making satisfactory employees.

Oct. 22. Mrs. W. A. Cleveland dies in Miami, Florida. She was the former Miss Oleeta Tankersley.

Nov. 9. Gifts amounting to $75,000 to Ellijay and Gilmer County from Joe K. and Christine McCutchen are announced. This marks the most generous gesture toward the public welfare since the days of Martin Scalf.

JOE K. and CHRISTINE McCUTCHEN

Benefactors of our People.

These operators (man and wife) of the J & C Company of Ellijay designated their gifts mainly for the Ellijay High School, Ellijay community and Gilmer County generally. The gifts are as follows:

School Lunch room	$3,500
Lighted Football Field and Stadium	7,000
Football Equipment	1,500
Football Coach's Salary two Years	3,000
Gymnasium Equipment	500
Vocational Shop Equipment	600
Moving Picture Projectors, Sound-Attached	2,700
Commercial Department	1,000
Physics and Chemistry Laboratory	3,000
Playground Equipment and Fence for School Yard	1,000
Radio and Victrola Combination Machine	500
Reference Books and Classics	500
Industrial and Vocational Building	8,500
Band Instruments and Uniforms	2,000
County Health Nurse, Medical Supplies 2 Years	2,900
Golf Course and Club House	21,600
Swimming Pool and Lighted Tennis Court	10,000
Playground Equipment	500
Ellijay First Methodist Church Parsonage	4,000
Grand Piano for Ellijay First Baptist Church	700
Grand Total	$75,000

Nov. 26. The death of W. B. (Bill) Parks is announced.

Dec. 6. Mrs. Bascom Derden dies.

Dec. 20. John L. Hyatt dies. He was a son of P. G. Hyatt. He is survived by his widow the former Miss Florence Wells; sons, Seth, Howard, Spurgeon, Glenn; and a daughter, Mrs. B. G. Kidder.

1945

Jan. 5. Paying a poll tax ends in Gilmer as in Georgia generally.

Jan. 15. Chenille manufacture is curtailed by government order.

Jan. 18. Ellis Arnall, governor of Georgia, authorizes the state budget commission to transfer needed funds to schools, and the Legislature unanimously adopts his plan and likewise a measure for teacher retirement.

Jan. 20. Truman C. Parks is killed in Belgium.

Feb. 4. Mrs. J. G. Dover dies at Ellijay.

Feb. 13. An army plane strikes Stover mountain and its two occupants are killed.

Feb. 22. Mrs. W. A. Simmons, 83, dies at Ellijay. She was the widow of M. C. Simmons, and was the daughter of John Pettit.

March 8. Gilmer shares the State's interest in the formation of a new, revised State Constitution.

Items of information are reported from the various war fronts: March 17, John Nelson dies in Germany; he was a member of the First Army, 99th division; March 25, Glenn Mealer is killed in action in Germany; Pfc. Robert Mooney is killed in battle in Germany; April 10, Troy L. Bearden dies in Germany; Lee Fowler is another war fatality in the same country; March 31, William D. Walker dies in Florida. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Walker.

April 18, 19, 20. The Ninth District Literary and Track meet is held at Ellijay.

May 2. Veterans of foreign wars organize a post to be called the Gilmer County Post No. 656.

May 7. With but one vote opposing, Ellijay votes $30,000 to improve its streets.

May 8. War with Germany, in its active aspects, ends, but that with Japan continues.

May 21. Mrs. Lucy Pettit, 82, dies at her home in Cartecay district. Her maiden name was Miss Lucy Bradley, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Calvin Bradley.

June 21. School teachers are paid two months extra compensation. Governor Ellis Arnall foresees 12-months pay for them.

June 28. The Georgia Lumber Company, having succeeded to the business assets of the North Georgia Lumber Company, will begin, early in July, further production of pallets.

June 29. The Ellijay Lions club wins the Elkon trophy for activities in 1944-45, with Joe K. McCutchen, president; and J. H. Cooley, secretary.

July 12. Gilmer increases by $7,742 annually its road maintenance fund.

July 19. Ellijay has a newly organized high school band that uses instruments donated by J. K. McCutchen.

Aug. 3. B. C. Logan sells his storehouse and stock of merchandise in Ellijay to Edwin Kiker and Cecil Knight for $30,500.

Aug. 14. Ellijay joins in the celebration of peace with Japan. A meet of thanksgiving is held August 15.

Aug. 27. Mrs. J. G. Cole dies in Marietta. She was buried at Ellijay August 28. She was the former Miss Ina Teem, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin V. Teem. She is survived by her husband J. Gordon Cole; two brothers, Martin I. Teem, Ellijay, and W. M. Teem, Marietta. The memory of Mrs. Teem is a pleasant one to those who shared her friendship.

Sept. 10. Samuel M. Carter, genial and helpful friend of the writer and operator of the 31,000-acre Carter estate centering about the confluence of the Coosawattee river and Talking Rock creek on the border of Gilmer County, is reported to have died in Dalton. He pointed out to me and my son the site of old Fort Gilmer, which stood on the north side of the highway in front of Mr. Carter's home.

Sept. 13. Street, sidewalk and sewer improvement is in progress at Ellijay. Every street is scheduled for paving. Some $50,000 is to be spent on the undertaking.

Oct. 15. The War Rationing office at Ellijay is closed.

Oct. 28. William H. Searcey dies in Cherry Log district. He was usually known as "Bud."

Nov. 1. The Lyle Construction Company is completing paving of Ellijay streets and six miles of rural roads.

Nov. 6. Dean DeOvies salutes Ellijay over WSB radio as "the town of the week."

Nov. 22. The Ellijay Bedspread Company starts production in Ellijay.

Nov. 27. Street improvement bonds of Ellijay, to the amount of $30,000, sell in Atlanta for $1,230 premium.

Dec. 6. Col. James F. Waters is awarded the Legion of Merit.

Dec. 13. Among other praiseworthy steps that Governor Ellis Arnall proposes to take for education in Georgia is a move to end all suspicion or semblance of racketeering in school books in the state.

Dec. 27. David J. Davenport, 83, dies in Atlanta. His wife was the former Miss Margaret Ann Hill, daughter of Seaborn Hill. Mr. Davenport, in 1899, built the old Ellijay Institute. He is believed to have built, also, the Hyatt hotel.

1946

Thirteen years ago a man could hardly buy a job at any price and now industry can hardly get help at any price.

Dr. R. W. Smith dies at Ellijay. He came to Ellijay in the early part of 1916 and began the practice of dentistry.

Jan. 6. Mrs. Ivory McClure, the former Mae Weaver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. M. Weaver, dies at her home in Tickanetley.

Jan. 22. The death of William H. Shippen, in Atlanta, is announced. Mr. Shippen, 80, was a native of Louisville, Kentucky. He was long associated with his brother, F. E. Shippen, in the lumber business at Ellijay. He left Ellijay in 1926, removing to Atlanta. Before leaving Ellijay, he disposed of his property in Gilmer.

Jan. 24. Ellijay Lions urge Governor Arnall for better pay for teachers in the public schools.

Feb. 7. Many soldiers are returning from foreign lands.

A beauty contest, staged at Ellijay High school by seniors of the school, is judged by Mayor William B. Hartsfield of Atlanta. He decides Miss Aleece Hampton is winner.

Feb. 12, Devastating Floods occur. N. B. Mooney's footlog washes away, making it necessary for him to travel (for the time being) two miles to get to his barn.

Feb. 21. Teachers are scheduled to receive 12 payments during the year. The teacher situation, what with resignations, low pay and inability to staff schools at all has become desperate. An intelligent governor and state board of education decide one way to get qualified teachers was to pay them—and acted upon their convictions.

April 3. L. C. McArthur dies.

April 4. B. H. Osborn dies at Jasper.

April 11-13. Ellijay High school wins "B" group cup at Ninth District Literary meet at Gainesville.

April 18. Governor Ellis Arnall increases pay of teachers in public schools.

The funeral of Wesley J. Miller, 80, is held in Boardtown. Among his survivors are his widow; sons, Claude, Hoke (located at Stamford, Conn.); daughters, Miss Alice Miller, Mrs. Bob Jones, Mrs. Carter Jones. He represented a sturdy, honorable type of citizenship, the kind this nation needs.

June 17. A workshop for teachers of Gilmer and teacher personnel of this area generally starts at Blue Ridge.

June 20. Rev. J. D. Poindexter, former Gilmer teacher, dies in Folkston.

Of the 45 recently graduated from Ellijay High school, 15 purpose to go to college. Of the 1066 students enrolled in the school the past year, 355 were

in high school; 176 were first graders. Twelve buses are now used by rural schools.

July 23. Mrs. S. F. Pettit, the former Miss Bee Hudson, dies at Ellijay. She was a sister to J. S. Hudson. Survivors include: her husband; four sons, Dr. J. K. Pettit, Harris Pettit, Sanford Pettit, Butler Pettit; one daughter, Miss Dora Pettit.

July 27. Charles Bradford McGaughey, 83, dies in Atlanta. Mr. McGaughey evolved a charming summer place on the brow of Turniptown (often referred to as Lil) mountain. The place was later owned by W. H. Sailors, who has improved the spot much beyond what Mr. McGaughey had done.

Aug. 1. A Canadian visits Ellijay to recruit labor for his country's extensive harvest fields.

Aug. 29. Ellijay and Gilmer County notably increase lumber production. Their main shipping point is Ellijay. In addition to numerous small sawmills (some of them stationary and powered by water) are reportedly the following operators: the Ellijay Lumber Company, Soule Lumber Company, Bond-Woolf Lumber Company, Five County Lumber Company, Georgia Lumber Export Company, Southern Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Southern Wood Preserving Company.

Aug. 30. Bonds to the amount of $25,000 for expanding Ellijay's water supply are validated.

Sept. 7. Holden & Rackley open a new department store on Dalton Street, Ellijay.

Sept. 20. Ellijay dedicates, in a rousing tempo, McCutchen football field. These exercises are followed by a football game—the first ever played at Ellijay. Pitted against Canton, Ellijay loses.

Oct. 3. Whitaker & Bradford open their self-service store in Ellijay. The stock carried by the firm has been select and rich in variety.

Oct. 12. Hilltop Bedspread Company is destroyed by fire.

Ca. Oct. 31. Nathan L. Cobb dies in Texas. He was a son of J. P. Cobb Sr. of Ellijay and was a brother to J. P. Cobb Jr. and Mrs. M. L. Cox, both well remembered in Ellijay.

Nov. 7. County farm income doubles that of 1940, grossing more than a million dollars.

Nov. 25. R. E. Smith dies at Nashville, Tenn. He was a son of R. Lee Smith, who was a colonel in the Confederate army.

Nov. 27. S. B. Green becomes president of the Ellijay Telephone Company.

Nov. 28. Gilmer's new member of the legislature, W. A. Whitener, puts in order some sound legislative bills, according to promise on his part.

Dec. 19. Gilmer is reported to have approximately 239,173 acres in forest, 85 percent of its area. It has about 360 million board feet of sawtimber and 889,000 cords of pulpwood and similar smaller types of timber. It has, some authorities say, more pine than hardwood.

The REA approves Project C providing 258 more electric lines to the co-op for supplying rural folk with electricity.

Dec. 31. The Federal census releases reveal the County has 50 sawmills that cut 22,896,000 board feet of lumber during the year. The yield of the softer woods was 15,411,000; hardwood, 7,485,000.

1947

Jan. 1. Gilmer people still hold United States savings and bonds to the amount of about $1,500,000 of a grand total of $1,796,213.

Jan. 10. J. Henry Penland dies at his home in Ellijay.

Jan. 20. Flood waters of Ellijay river overflow the heating system of Ellijay school.

Jan. 23. V. E. Porter and W. S. Weissinger become joint owners of the Soule Lumber Company, operated since 1935 by A. C. Soule.

Feb. 17. The Knight Pontiac Automobile Company opens at Ellijay.

The Western Union Telegraph company establishes an office in Ellijay, Miss Coleeta Sawyer to have charge.

April 5. J. B. Williams dies at his home.

April 8. Ellijay High school wins first prize at Beta Stunt and Talent convention in Atlanta.

April 28. Work begins at Ellijay on improvements on road northward through Boardtown.

May 5. Gilmer sportsmen organize a club. J. D. Mullinax is elected president; M. I. Teem Jr., vice president; and Charlie Sellers, secretary.

May 29. The grand jury is aroused over roadhouse nuisances.

June 1. Joe Allen dies in Valdosta. Joe was a genial friend and took part in musical circles. His remarks to audiences were well flavored with aptness and humor.

June 2. Tankersley and Hampton open a second theatre in Summerville. They already operate the Tooga and Royal, Summerville; the Fort in Chatsworth as well as the Ellijay in Ellijay.

No teachers for a number of public schools, and a large percentage (June 12) of those assigned to teach are of the type who will have to improve their educational rating or soon retire from teaching.

Aug. 5. A. P. Reece, father of 20 children, dies at his home.

Aug. 7. Gov. M. E. Thompson, in an address at Ellijay, admits that Gilmer County in comparison with a number of counties—some smaller—still has less than half its quota of miles of roads on the state system and less than half the number of miles of paved roads.

Aug. 14. Efforts to obtain workers to go to Ohio to pick tomatoes and apples are being made.

Aug. 20. Gilmer donates $243 and takes a part in a conservation rally at the Sam Carter estate.

Aug. 22. A contract is let to build a bridge across the Ellijay river for traffic to and from the east. This has been from the beginning of Ellijay's history a passway of much importance.

Aug. 30. Arthur Stewart proves that good apples can still be grown in Gilmer without spraying.

Sept. 1. Pickens county begins improving the old Federal road which crosses southwest Gilmer.

Sept. 4. Ralph McGill writes of having visited farms and farmers in Gilmer. He reveals the trend toward trucking.

Sept. 8. Mathew Mack Evans, 59, dies in Atlanta. A son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Evans, he was born and bred into the lumber business. People can still remember him as a wonder boy in knee pants along the railroad sidetracks of Gilmer measuring and grading lumber.

Sept. 11. More finishing touches are being put upon Henry Grady highway.

Sept. 18. The Willingham-Little Stone Company operates a dolomite mine in Gilmer County, opposite another such mine in Pickens county. The firm later added another mine and two crushing plants to its Gilmer developments.

Sept. 20. Mrs. J. B. Bearden, 73, widow of Dr. Joe Brown Bearden, dies in Atlanta.

Oct. 27. M. L. Cox Jr. dies in Atlanta.

Oct. 31. J. K. McCutchen observes the 10th anniversary of his bedspread factory in Ellijay.

He and Mrs. McCutchen came to Ellijay in 1937. They procured the former "Ellijay Institute" building and opened their plant with a "dozen or so machines." Everything that goes into spreads is now made in the plant.

The first manufactory was later enlarged by the addition of a thread mill, then a plant to make sheeting. In 1947 a two-story building was completed. This is installed with the most modern chenille machines.

All the different departments of the industry employ some 500 hands.

Nov. 6. Governor M. E. Thompson raises salaries and other educational support.

Nov. 11. Mrs. J. W. Glenn, 94, dies in Texas. She was a sister of J. P. Cobb Jr. Her father and mother were Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Cobb Sr.

Nov. 16. Mountaintown Baptists dedicate a new meeting house. This congregation was organized into a church March 24, 1840. The presbytery that helped officially with the work of constituting the church consisted of William Kimsey, Wilkins Pate, Abel N. Miller, all ministers.

Charter membership consisted of John Plemmons, J. J. Dickerson, Absalom Pence (great-grandfather of the living Andy Pence), Jasper Pritchett, N. R. Osborn, John Miller, John Osborn, Josh Sumner; the charter female membership consisting of Celia Plemmons, Elizabeth Dickerson, Frances Pence, Barbara Pritchett, Mary Osborn, Cansady Patterson, Matilda Miles, Mary Heifrine (doubtless Hefner), Jane Plemmons, and Priscilla Brock.

Dec. 31. Manufactured goods of Gilmer for the year are valued at $1,015,000. The County also produced 15,996,000 feet of lumber, 10,896,000 of this being softwood and 5,100,000 hardwood.

1948

Jan. 19. Mrs. Bessie Truman Cobb dies in Ellijay. She was a widow of John P. Cobb. Survivors are a daughter, Mrs. Frances Putnam, and a son, John Thomas Cobb.

Jan. 25. Mrs. B. P. Whitaker dies at Ellijay in her 95th year. Her husband died in 1933. Her maiden name was Allen. She is survived by three sons, Luther, Mack, Frank; daughters, Mrs. E. W. Henry, Mrs. H. F. Wright, Mrs. J. W. Ray, and Mrs. J. L. Henson.

Jan. 28. Snow and ice is blocking many roads.

Jan. 29. Gilmer farm property is valued at more than $2,174,000.

Ellijay begins another year of progress in firefighting equipment and water supply, and purposes further street improvements and night police service.

Feb. 7. J. L. Hamby dies at Ellijay. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Laura Earl Hamby, and a daughter, Mrs. M. L. Cox, and a son, Frank Hamby.

Feb. 19. Gilmer County is said to be farther south than any other county entitled to the advantages of TVA. It qualifies us because Cashes Valley and considerable of the Big Creek basin drain into the Tennessee river.

March 1. Gilmer, aroused by a rash of burglaries by a youthful gang (one said to be a girl), imposes a 9 p. m. curfew for youngsters.

March 4. Ellijay adds night police protection.

March 6. Gilmer County has mild temperatures while an ice storm spreads south from Canton.

March 12. A mobile x-ray laboratory visits Ellijay in the interest of chest examinations.

March 13. An airplane piloted by Max Hill lands in a field east of the Ellijay schoolhouse. He took off Monday. This is the first landing here.

March 22. The old Cobb covered bridge, relic of pioneer days, near the southern boundary of Ellijay, is blown from its rock pillars into the Coosawattee river above the foundations. A flood follows.

But, during the high water, the bridge washed down the river, missing the pillars, continuing its course neatly to the Coosawattee river bridge a mile down, then passed harmlessly end first under that. It did not stop till far down about the falls of the river, where it is said to have upended itself against a tree.

This historic old structure (said by some to have been built about the time the Indians left) certainly stood through much of our history. Here we passed to and from Cartersville for our mail. It was also on the road to Rome, Atlanta and other important points.

May 18. Mrs. L. M. Simmons dies at Ellijay. Her maiden name was Mary Elizabeth Bell. She was 88. Survivors are S. S., Paul S., Miss Florence, Mrs. Howard Perry, Mrs. E. W. Thayer. The death of her husband occurred in 1922.

May 23. Rites for Pvt. Theodore Coley are conducted at Ellijay. Pvt. Coley died in France June 6, 1944.

May 27. Ellijay Elementary school is the only school of its kind in Georgia that maintains a full-time librarian and a library separate from high school facilities of the kind and high school personnel.

Ellijay High school ranks in the top 10 per cent in Georgia high schools in the number going from high school to college.

Nobles of the Mystic Shrine from Gilmer, Fannin, Union and Pickens counties form "North Georgia Shrine No. 11" at Blue Ridge.

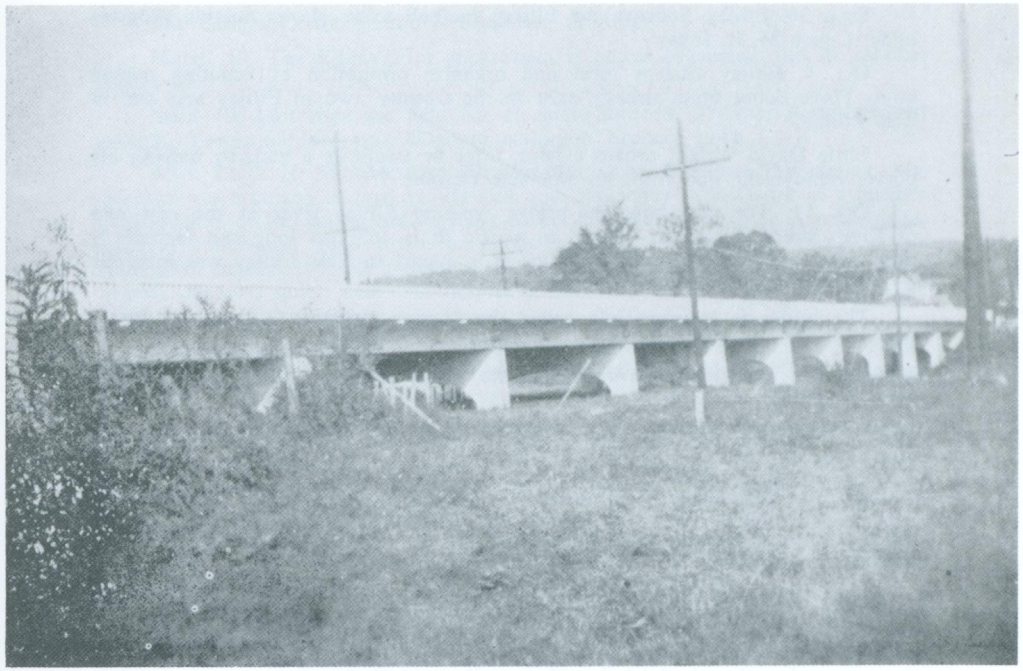
June 1. City mail delivery begins in Ellijay.

June 15. Dub Garrett dies a hero's death in a well in order to rescue George Lanning from the well.

Corbin Hill Methodist church is organized.

June 30. Since January 1947 appropriations for road construction in Gilmer County have been $203,603. This includes seven miles of paving and grading and one bridge.

Welfare payments to the aged are $12.74 per month; assistance to dependent children, $12.35, and aid to blind, $10.25.



LOGAN BRIDGE, ELLIJAY

Opened October 13, 1948

During the past 18 months Gilmer has received $195,281.31 for public education.

July 15. Ensign Farish Doff McArthur is interred in Marietta National cemetery.

July 22. A telephone line is extended a mile and a half out Chatsworth road.

July 29. Miss Estelle Parker, like her father, shows aptitude and ability in writing verse.

Postal service at Ellijay requires 15 employees. Twelve mails are dispatched daily, 13 received.

Sept. 9. L. O. Rogers of Miami, Florida, is developing 125 acres of wild land on Kell creek for summer cottages. Several cabin sites have already been sold. Later note. The summer houses that have been built are exceptional in design, materials used in construction, color blending with the landscape and their rustic and artistic atmosphere.

Sept. 17. Gilmer Fox Hunters stage a bench show at Ellijay.

Sept. 30. Ellijay Bobcats, the Ellijay football team, shows notable progress under Coach M. R. Jones.

Oct. 4. Ellijay citizens meet and organize promotion of Scouting among boys. Three Scout units already exist in the County, two in Ellijay and one in East Ellijay.

Little David Wright proves a hero, after he swallows a nail, by helping his doctor remove the nail from his stomach, October 7.

Oct. 13. The new concrete bridge crossing Ellijay river at the east end of River Street, Ellijay, is opened to traffic. It is 467 feet long and includes a sidewalk. Paving of the road of which it is a part to East Ellijay was included in the contract for constructing the bridge.

The bridge is appropriately called the "Logan Bridge," in honor of B. C. Logan Sr., for his generous part in planning and building it.

Oct. 14. Work starts on improving the Yukon Road, which is to be finished with "blacktop."

Oct. 28. Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Lester Hagan, Cairo, Illinois, visit their old home county.

Nov. 2. Mrs. Mary Charles, 72, dies at Ellijay. She was the wife of B. H. Charles. Her maiden name was Dover. She had the courage to live the unselfish life that so many celebrate and so few live. She should have the undying gratitude of those to whom she was unselfishly and generously kind.

Nov. 11. Harry Truman carries the County by a small majority over Dewey.

Dec. 12. The Georgia-Tennessee Coach Company inaugurates a new bus transportation service between Chattanooga and Dublin, by way of Ellijay. This company takes the place of the Thomas line, which has been operating buses between Dalton and Dahlonega.

Dec. 31. Postal receipts are up 32 percent over 1947, an increase of $3,970.19.

Mrs. Pearson Sisson, more than 100 years old, dies in the County.

1949

Jan. 22. B. Horace Holt, son of Jasper Holt, dies in Atlanta, where he had been residing for many years. He was a valuable consultant on Gilmer, his old home county.

Jan. 26. The REA energizes 14.2 more miles of power lines in Bucktown and Tickanetley districts.

Feb. 2. Final rites for Navy Lieut. William Cole Haigler are held at Cartecay Methodist church. Lieut. Haigler was killed in action Oct. 20, 1944, on Leyte Island, one of the Philippine Island groups.

Feb. 28. Passenger trains on the L & N railroad traversing Gilmer County cease to run, the privilege to discontinue them having been granted the railroad Jan. 27.

This passenger train service had been continuous since 1884, a period of 65 years. The railroad began operations in 1874 as the Marietta, Canton and Ellijay railroad; later it was the Marietta and North Georgia. By 1886 the road had extended northward from Marietta 96 miles to the North Carolina line.

March 1. Since discontinuance of trains that have been transporting Gilmer mail a new schedule of mail service between Atlanta and Copper Hill, Tenn., has been devised. This gives Ellijay three deliveries of mail a day from each terminus.

The Gilmer Credit bureau is organized at Ellijay.

March 10. The Ellijay Fire department is better organized and its services improved.

April 10. Last rites are held for Herman Sanford at Cross Roads Baptist church. Young Sanford was killed in action in France, 1944.

April 22. J. H. M. (Meridy) Weaver dies at his home in Tickanetley. Mr. Weaver was a citizen of rare quality and high efficiency in his work as a teacher during some of the earlier active years of his life. He wrote a clear, neat script, and he understood good order in public records. For such reasons, he was employed, assisted by his daughter, to transcribe public records such as tax digests. He was quiet, neat and helpful toward others. He was born Sept. 30, 1865.

May 13. Mrs. Alice Greer Chastain dies at the home of a son. She was Miss Alice Greer, daughter of Thomas Greer. She was first married to T. W. Craigo; then, after the death of Mr. Craigo, to Rev. Joe Chastain.

May 17. Whitestone neighborhood dedicates a superior community house.

Work starts on a new vocational agricultural building at Ellijay High school.

May 19. The county work camp is enlarged and the number of its inmates increased for better roads in Gilmer.

June 2. Gennett Band sawmill, located three miles northeast of Ellijay, receives liberal press notice. Thad Clory is superintendent.

June 9. Mrs. Rebecca Logan dies at her home in Ellijay. A mother of character and deep religious interests, she was also faithful in friendships. Her maiden name was Bramlett. She was related to Ellijay's first teacher, John W. Bramlett, honored in this record.

July. H. W. VanWijk returns to Antwerp, Belgium after a close up study of lumber businesses here.

Aug. 15. Mr. and Mrs. John Silins, Latvians, who have just arrived from their native land, are among the few foreign born of Gilmer County.

Sept. 30. The funeral of J. S. Hudson occurs.

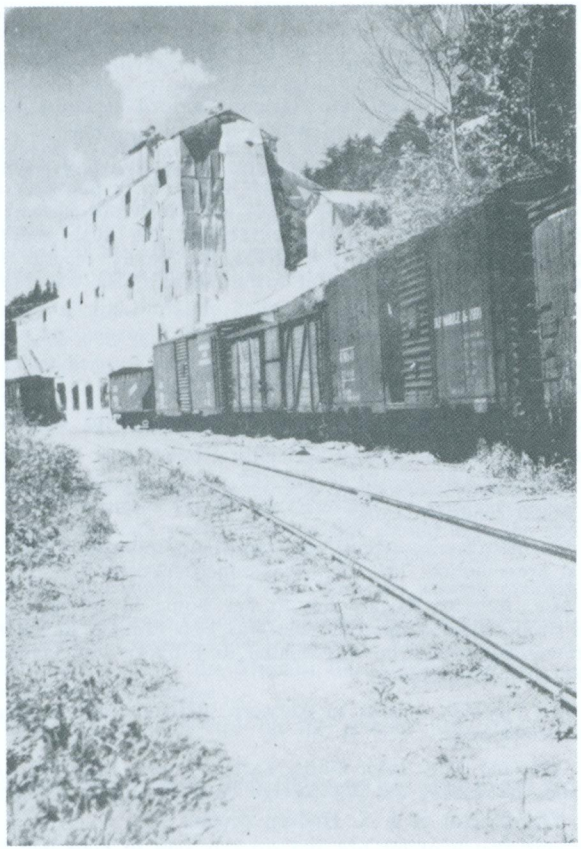
The following sketch of his life and work is said to have had his approval shortly before his death.

John S. Hudson, son of Julius A. Hudson and Mary Smith Hudson, was born at Cartecay, Gilmer County, Georgia, October 3, 1861, and died September 28, 1949. His father, who was a Confederate soldier in the War between the States, was killed in the battle of Resaca, leaving his widow and three young children to brave the perils of reconstruction alone, and to earn their support as best they could.

In early life, Mr. Hudson worked on the farm; and, as soon as he was old enough he assumed the support of his mother, grandmother and grandfather.

Educational conditions at the end of the Civil War were very inadequate. However, Oakland academy had just been founded in his home community, and here he attended school. And even though his opportunities were limited, he advanced in his work until he was able to teach in the public schools of the County. This was the beginning of his public life.

On February 21, 1889, he was married to Miss Harriet Tabor, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. N. T. Tabor, and established, in his native community, a comfortable home in which to rear their family, which consists of two sons, E. T. Hudson, Ellijay, Ga., R. G. Hudson, Blue Ridge, Ga.; and a daughter, Miss Winifred Hudson, Ellijay, Ga.



THE WILLINGHAM-LITTLE STONE COMPANY'S PLANT
For Mining and Processing of Dolomitic Limestone

GILMER FAIR EXHIBIT AND SALES BUILDING

In early life Mr. Hudson joined Cartecay Methodist church. His membership there lasted more than 70 years, and his official connection with the church dated back over 60. A consistent member of this congregation, he interested himself much in the upkeep of the building itself, beautification of its grounds and the upkeep of the church property generally. He attended its services regularly. He went to the Sunday school operated in connection with it, also, as long as he lived.

Mr. Hudson's interest in education and his desire to improve educational opportunities for the boys and girls of his community and county generally inspired his long sustained efforts to make Oakland a steadily improving institution. This progress told in better buildings, heightened quality of teachers until the school attracted a wide patronage.

Also, through the efforts of Mr. Hudson and his fellow helpers of the school neighborhood, Oakland offered educational opportunity to hundreds of youth, who went from its doors to widespread fields of usefulness. When young people of his county or adjoining counties wanted to go to school and did not have financial means, Mr. Hudson often helped them to work out a way, often giving them rooms in his own buildings where they could do their own work, furnish their own food and thus attend school. His help to this underprivileged group was a contribution that could not be measured or fully told in mere words.

Hundreds of boys and girls, so helped and inspired, went out and made a place for themselves in the world.

During the early 1900s, for approximately 20 years, Mr. Hudson served on the County Board of Education.

He worked in cooperation with the Federal Government as cattle inspector appointed by the State, in the eradication of the cattle tick, which was taking heavy toll from the cattle growers of the county, and which was completely stamped out.

At the close of his service on the County Board of Education, he became County School Superintendent. Through his untiring efforts, the County School System was improved, new buildings erected and school terms lengthened.

During World War 1, Mr. Hudson acted as County Farm Agent, organizing Corn Clubs in the county to promote better farming and encouraged the Corn Club boys by arranging exhibits and by taking them and their exhibits to Atlanta to the State Fair.

During World War I, he also served as County Food Administrator.

In 1924, the office of Gilmer County Commissioner of Roads and Revenues was created by an act of the Legislature and Mr. Hudson was appointed Commissioner by this same Legislature, which office he held until December 31, 1940. When he took over the office, there was no equipment whatever for improving the roads and there were no graded nor paved roads in the county. Gradually, he secured modern road machinery, working the roads to almost everybody's door. Practically all the county roads were widened, many regraded, streams bridged, making it possible for rural mails carried by automobiles to go to all parts of the county and for school buses to operate in the rural sections, bringing children together for better educational opportunities in consolidated schools and giving them opportunities to attend the county high school.

During his term of service, he built a paved highway through the county, north and south to the adjoining county lines; and, while working on this, an east and west road from the Murray county line to the Dawson county line was

laid out and Mr. Hudson negotiated the placing of this road on the State Highway System and the gas tax for the mileage of this road was secured for the County. Also the Cartecay-Burnt Mountain road, a distance of about 6½ miles, and the Ball Creek-Carters road, a distance of 7 miles, were placed on the State Highway System and the gas tax from this mileage secured for the County. The west end of the Murray county to Dawson county line road was built with prisoner labor, and the east end of the road was also built with prisoner labor, WPA labor, and by contract. The prosecution of these projects required much tact and patience and long, hard hours of work, and were accomplished through the untiring efforts of Mr. Hudson.

Other public improvements realized by the county during his administration as Commissioner are: the present courthouse, paving of the public square in Ellijay and construction of a beautiful park in the center of this square, securing land and constructing a county market building and office for the County Agent, grounds for exhibits and fairs, etc., to promote interest and profit in farming, marketing and improved stock, and remodeled the county jail and grounds.

J. S. HUDSON

First Commissioner of Roads and Revenues of Gilmer County. His most permanent contribution to our advance in road construction was putting a road to every man's house, earnest efforts to obtain first class roads as fast as he could obtain rights of way, and in new and improved surveys. He also established clubs among farm boys.

Mr. Hudson handled public funds eceonomically, gave full time to his job, and was patient and tactful.

In co-operation with WPA, Mr. Hudson widened, graded and graveled the Yukon Road and a number of other roads in the county have been graded and rocked with this labor.

In the interest of good farming and apple growing, Mr. Hudson improved his own farm with modern methods and propagated an apple orchard and installed modern grading facilities that are a worthy example for farmers desiring to establish profitable methods of farming.

The character of the man is attested by the position of confidence he has held in the everyday life of his fellowman. For years he bore the title of "Pacifier" among his associates. The title was gained by him in negotiating compromises in settling differences in county or community strife. Coming from a Christian home in which principles of honesty, sobriety and uprightness were instilled, his life has followed these lines and has been tempered with wisdom, justice and moderation, and these qualities, touching the lives of those with whom he came in contact, have influenced them in the same direction.

The supreme evidence of a man's success may well be reckoned as in the contribution he makes in quality citizenship to his country. The children Mr. Hudson has reared, and who are now adding strength to the Christian, social and business life of the land, are emulating the principles for which he stood. Thus his influence for good flows on, enlarging in volume as it flows and spreads through the ever growing capacity of those who have received it as a heritage of honor.

This useful, fruitful life came to a close on the night of September 28, 1949, after he had done his usual day's work in his orchards, where he had spent much time since retiring from public life and official connections. Death was caused by a heart attack which lasted but a short time. He has gone to his reward and his works follow him.

—Contributed

Oct. 13. Telephone service is extended into East Ellijay south of the Cartecay river.

Oct. 25. Smoky Mountain bus station is moved from the Watson drug store, Ellijay, to a new bus station designed and built by J. G. Cole.

Nov. 17. Water supply of Ellijay is increased by plans to connect it with a spring northwest of other springs now in use.

Nov. 27. Dr. C. G. Cox, physician at the State hospital, Milledgeville, dies in that city. A son of M. L. Cox Sr. of Ellijay, he had the rank of captain in World War I.

Survivors include his wife and two daughters, Mrs. J. L. Rothery, Mrs. Z. S. Sikes; a son, James C. Cox; a brother, Dr. Manley Cox; sisters, Misses Willie and Pearl Cox, Mrs. Lillie Crawford, Mrs. Edith Williams, and Mrs. T. J. Harlan.

Dec. 2. A motorcade more than a mile long accompanies the Ellijay "Bobcats" to play football against the Newnan "Tigers." The result was a score of 24 to 6 in favor of Newnan.

Dec. 11. A Rotary club is organized at Ellijay.

Dec. 14. Mrs. J. W. Sutton gives birth to a baby gestated in the abdominal cavity instead of in the uterus. The success of the Caesarean section done at Ellijay creates comment favorable to medical men who were directing the O'Daniel clinic where the operation was done.

An Atlanta obstetrician said he had never known of such an operation where both mother and baby survived. Dr. T. F. Sellers, director of the State Health

Department, is quoted as saying it was the first successful extra-uterine birth in Georgia, in fact.

1950

Jan. 18. Final rites are held at Northcutt for Mrs. R. W. Randell, the former Miss Sophia Ray.

Jan. 19. Jimmy Quarles, former Gilmer boy, aged 11, surprises his Detroit teacher with the height of his score in social studies and what it means to be an American.

On the same date students of vocational agriculture and veteran trainees occupy a new $15,000 building which grew from a $6,000 bequest made in 1945 by Mr. and Mrs. J. K. McCutchen. The Gilmer Board of Education contracted for a $13,000 building, and students scheduled to use the structure contributed much labor.

Jan. 30. Mrs. B. S. Holden dies at Cairo, Georgia. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. J. H. Morrison and Mrs. W. A. Lundy.

Feb. 4. Rev. W. I. McVey, 84, dies suddenly at his Fannin county home on top of the Blue Ridge. He was a Baptist 67 years, and had been in the Baptist ministry 64 years. At one time he was a citizen of Gilmer County. Over many years he preached often in this area. He was probably the most popular and influential minister ever to preach in northern Gilmer districts.

Feb. 7. Ellijay decides to install parking meters, and puts them to work April 18.

Feb. 11. Dr. J. S. Tankersley dies at Canton. Nearly 90, Dr. Tankersley was a son of Lemuel Tankersley, pioneer, who settled in Tails Creek district. He was official physician to the construction camps when the present L & N railroad was built through Gilmer County. He is survived by a son, James Tankersley.

Dr. Tankersley's funeral was held at Ellijay and his interment was there.

April 15. A meeting of ministers, assembled at Ellijay, endorse the courageous stand of Sheriff Ralph Davis against the illicit making and selling of whiskey. The ministers endorse the continuation in office of Sheriff Davis.

Signing the recommendation were E. W. Davis, J. B. Weeks, Roy Cantrell, Ralph Smith, W. O. Lovingood, Coley Liles, Horace E. Reece, J. S. Defoor, C. B. Rogers, Kimsey E. McVey, J. B. Farist, Emory Farist, L. J. Gibson, D. G. Penland, H. D. Helton, C. B. Cochran, Oscar W. Land, Robert Burgess, J. W. Payne, O. P. Milton, J. S. Smith, R. R. Eller, James Crooke, Walter Starks, Homer Weaver, H. R. Todd, H. D. Cochran, B. M. Kiker, Wayne Davis, Bluford Smith.

April 18. J. Ed Frady, Gilmer's first rural mail carrier, dies in Atlanta at the age of 66. He started carrying the mail out of Ellijay Feb. 1, 1908. His route was naturally called One, and it ran northward up through Boardtown district.

April 20. Voter rolls of the County contain 4,891 names. But these are all, so far as the writer knows, bonafide citizens, alive and residing in the county.

April 29. A Carnegie hero medal is awarded posthumously to J. W. (Dub) Garrett, who lost his life June 16, 1948, just northeast of Ellijay while attempting to rescue a boy from a well. Another medal was awarded to A. C. Griffin, who assisted in the same rescue efforts.

May 18. Ellijay Municipal airport receives a federal recommendation to be classed one as an airfield.

A. M. Jones, prominent in the church and business life of Boardtown district, dies at his home there. He was in his 95th year.

May 25. A sensational murder charge against Coach M. R. Jones is dismissed. He was given a preliminary hearing on a charge of having killed Lamar Anderson. On June 1 he resigns his connection with the Ellijay High school.

During the past two years he has carried the Ellijay Bobcats (as the Ellijay football team is called) to a regional championship. The Ellijay football squad last season won 326 points and allowed only 34. Coach Jones was voted the "coach of the year" for Region 4-B.

He was succeeded by John C. Hoke, who states he plans physical education for all the students of the school.

July 2. Houston Arnold and Burt Banks die of electric shock. T. C. Banks was badly burned in the same accident, but recovered.

Ellijay Youth center is begun. Later a youth council was elected to find places and equipment for the entertainment of teenagers. Selected to direct this activity were Charles Presley, Joel Stembridge, Mrs. B. C. Cochran, Louis Scharlach.

July 18. A bond issue for $160,000 for schools is endorsed by voters of the County.

Aug. 13. Emerson Frank Waters dies at his home in Ellijay. Among survivors are Miss Miriam Waters, Mesdames Laura McGinty, Thyrza Quinn and Sarah Manning. Surviving sons are James F. Waters and C. E. Waters, both prominently identified with the modern business life of Ellijay.

Mr. Waters came to Ellijay at 17 to attend the old "seminary." He became a clerk in the store of Alfred Bishop of Ellijay. He also clerked for Fate Bishop. Later, he and J. C. Allen bought out the Bishops. Later still, Mr. Waters became the sole owner of the business.

His first wife was Miss Vesta Allen; his second, Miss Sallie Greer.

Aug. 16. The tenth anniversary of the Limestone Valley Soil conservation district is observed at Ellijay.

Aug. 21. Boy Scouts Jimmy Johnson and Billy Green of Ellijay report to the Rotary club on their trip to the International Jamboree at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Sept. 14. No graduation for Ellijay High school is scheduled this scholastic year. The 11th grade of this year will be the first to graduate in 1952, under the new 12-year school program.

Oct. 2. Miss Jean Wells begins work as Gilmer's health nurse.

In the early autumn the L & N railroad improves its service with Diesel power, quality and number of boxcars used, and with heavier fastenings.

Oct. 17. Ellijay Jaycees receive a charter. The club has 26 charter members. Maurice Rogers is president.

Oct. 26. Ellijay adds a 400,000-gallon capacity supplementary reservoir to its water supply.

Nov. 2. The Church of Christ completes a neat, attractive meeting house on Dodge Street. Vernon I. Chastain is minister.

Nov. 7. Gilmer overwhelmingly defeats a proposed amendment to extend the county unit vote to general elections.

Nov. 15. Mrs. M. I. Teem Sr. dies in Ellijay. Her maiden name was Miss Rebecca Kell. Among survivors are a son, Martin I. Teem Jr.; daughters, Mrs. Edwin Heaton, Mrs. Clarence Worley, Mrs. Joe Johnson.

Nov. 22. A meeting at Ellijay initiates a move for a community hospital.

Nov. 24. The thermometer falls below zero—the coldest November weather on record.

1951

Jan. 11. Ellijay post office moves to a new location.

Jan. 18. Cpl. N. W. Ray writes verse on the "Spent Hero" of Korea. He pens in poignant lines the pathos and the depth of tragedy that comes with death in that distant land.

Jan. 25. A Gilmer Hospital authority is named, and consists of Alba Dover, E. T. Hudson, H. Edwin Kiker, Mrs. R. W. Smith, C. E. Waters, S. B. Green, Seth Hyatt, Joe K. McCutchen, Mrs. James F. Waters.

Feb. 1. A list of 36 members of the 100-bushel Corn club is released, 27 of these being members of Gilmer County high school classes taught by J. E. Weeks and C. L. Jackson. Others are veteran farm trainees.

Feb. 20. Rev. Jason G. Dover dies at Ellijay. He is survived by sons, Cicero, Alfred, Burley, Landrum; daughters, Mrs. Stanton Douthit, Mrs. Herbert James and Mrs. E. W. Vickery.

Feb. 24. L. L. Woody, Spanish war veteran, dies in Ellijay. He had lived in Ellijay since 1937.

Feb. 28. Joe M. Stanley, loyal in friendship, hospitable in his home, age 76, dies at his residence on Big Creek.

March 15. Deepest snow of the season, reaching seven inches on Chatsworth highway, covers the County.

March 29, 30. High waters flood lower areas around Ellijay, damaging telephone lines and disrupting school and other buses, mail service, and washing out bridges. Three railroad and 65 county bridges are washed away. Lumber is lost and farms are damaged.

A huge landslide occurs on the highway just north of Cartecay river and opposite East Ellijay. A portion of a rocky mountain suddenly breaks loose and comes roaring down, the earth a-tremble, till the road at the foot of the hill is run over and the river beyond is gorged.

April 1. The sales tax, now beginning, and added to purchase prices, will be
One to 13 cents, no tax
14 to 35 cents, one cent
36 to 72 cents, two cents
73 cents to $1.13, three cents
$1.14 to $1.35, four cents

April 16. Robert L. Milton, 79, dies at Ellijay. He was born in Gilmer April 27, 1871. He was a son of P. F. Milton. Robert L. Milton was sheriff of Gilmer County for 19 years. His father before him was also sheriff of the County.

Survivors include a daughter, Miss Marie Milton; also sons, Paul, Foster, Herbert.

April 26. J. L. Dover and his helpers are cited for keeping fire losses to less than one and one-half per cent of wooded areas.

May 10. The Old Cobb bridge that was blown down and washed away in the spring of 1948 was replaced by locust timbers resting on the ancient pillars that had survived wind and flood.

But, after being in use but a few months, that bridge, too, washed away, leaving once more the bleak but sturdy old pillars, memorials to the invincible spirit of pioneer days.

May 11. Holt's new variety store opens on River Street. It is a carefully conducted modern establishment.

May 27. Lowry S. Holden dies in Atlanta.

June 13. Ike Duckett dies at his home on Chatsworth highway.

June 14. Members of the Hospital Authority are furthering plans to build a hospital on a site a mile south of Ellijay.

Aug. 4. Boardtown celebrates with a picnic the prospect of the early completion of the first all-weather road into their community.

Aug. 9. John Henry Quarles dies at his home in Tails Creek district. He is survived by his wife; three daughters, Mrs. Seth Hyatt, Mrs. Howard Hyatt, Mrs. Virgil Copeland; a son, Floyd Quarles.

Aug. 23. Golf is being played at the East Ellijay course.

Aug. 28. W. K. Reece, 83, dies in Blue Ridge. A kindly and neighborly man who liked to help others. Hospitable in his home, devoted to his church, he was a citizen of Gilmer County for 50 years.

Aug. 30. The old Frady House is razed in Ellijay. We spent our first night in Ellijay here when meals were 10 cents each—and good ones too.

Sept. 23. Mrs. Ollie Sellers dies at Ellijay at 79. She was a widow of Joseph Sellers. She is survived by Paul Sellers, a son, and Miss Annie Sellers, a daughter.

Oct. 1. The V. E. Porter Lumber Company transfers its ownership to the E. L. Weissinger Lumber Company.

Oct. 4. Ellijay's 400th telephone is installed. Telephone service at Ellijay was organized in 1904 by B. S. Holden, J. H. Carter and Charles B. Allen.

The corporation was later acquired by Dr. Ed W. Watkins, E. C. Watkins and Claud Watkins, the system being operated by Dr. Ed Watkins until November 1946. At this time S. B. Green acquired the property, and operated it until recent years.

Oct. 18. Gilmer gains 10.7 per cent in population from 1940 to 1950. The population in 1940 was 9,001; in 1950, 9,963. East Ellijay's gain (from 460 to 549) was 19.3 per cent; Ellijay's, 1,497 in 1940 to 1,527 in 1950, a gain of two per cent.

Oct. 19. Boardtown consolidated schoolhouse burns. Teachers and students move to Salem Baptist meeting house.

Dec. 1. Rural Route 1, radiating from Ellijay, is divided into two routes—One and Four. Route 1 will serve the Mountaintown area, Route 4, Boardtown.

Dec. 3. A. C. Ayers, Gilmer native, becomes manager of the West End branch of the Atlanta Federal Savings and Loan association.

Dec. 9. Dr. W. C. Chastain dies in Ellijay.

Dec. 13. A new shuttle block mill is being erected in Ellijay by the Draper corporation. Its products (made mainly of dogwood) have since been supplanted, we are informed, by plastic designs.

Dec. 22. Gilmer has begun commercial production of chickens hatched from Gilmer hens.

1952

April 10. Peerless Textiles, Inc., of Cleveland, Tenn., announces purchase of land just south of Ellijay for "future industrial development."

April 17. Wheeler McFarland, 77, Gilmer native, dies at McCaysville. Mr. McFarland was a veteran of the Spanish-American war, a corporal of the Fourth regiment, Tennessee Volunteers. He resided many years in Ellijay.

May 23. Dr. J. K. Pettit dies at Augusta.

May 25. Mont B. Smith dies at his home in East Ellijay.

May 29. Gilmer is included in the 12 counties of Georgia applying to the state board of education for state aid for educational purposes. The amount approved by the State School authority for Gilmer is $681,192. This amount is to be applied mainly to a building fund.

June 12. Ellijay High School building burns. Many text books and much other valuable equipment are destroyed. Cause of the fire is reported to have been lightning.

June 23. Gilmer is hearing much of an "extended" summer school program which is being tried out for the first time. But it was not continued beyond this season.

Aug. 20. A road rally and fish fry are held on the grounds of Tails Creek school. Governor Herman Talmadge speaks. A group of loyal citizens goes, in advance of the rally, to the Florida coast and catches the needed fish. These loyal citizens were B. C. Logan, W. H. Sailors, E. M. Wright, Ed Rackley, Howard Simmons, Clay Logan, and Earl Raven of White county.

Floyd Sisson and several of his children furnish folk music. Dave Whitaker acts as head chef. Sam Penland lends a hand in directing the program in general

Aug. 30. Gilmer approves a $60,000 bond issue toward building a hospital and only 17 votes were cast against the issue.

Sept. 1. School opens at Ellijay with elementary students dispersed about town. But repairs on the fire-damaged schoolhouse is to start promptly.

Higher social security payments begin.

Sept. 11. The O'Daniel clinic reports its total record of services to date.

The city of Ellijay completes a road winding westward to the city limits, thus initiating better road service to a large area of the County on the west side. The new road dovetails neatly, at the Johnny Logan home, with plans for a greatly improved highway westward, beginning a mile south of Ellijay.

Sept. 14. Audley Buffington, having been stung by several honeybees, dies suddenly.

Oct. 16. Gilmer reports 646 4-H'ers.

Nov. 4. Gilmer goes Democratic in the race for president, Stevenson winning by 35 votes.

Nov. 10. Rains quench extensive woods fires that have been raging, out of control, for more than a week. Some 15,000 acres are burned over.

The Social Security regional office serving Gilmer County, located at 100 E-6th Street, Chattanooga, Tenn., maintains a policy of helpfulness, seeking

through the local press and personal representatives to contact and advise with people of the County.

Dec. 4. The Gilmer Forestry unit reminds us to burn brush carefully, drown forest fires and to use ashtrays in cars when on trips to the woods.

1953

Jan. 3. Mrs. Ann Ellington, nearly 90, dies at the Boardtown home of her son, Willard Ellington. Mrs. Ellington was the daughter of David Mulkey and the widow of B. F. Ellington. She belonged to one of our earliest families.

Mrs. Ellington was a most willing and helpful consultant on points of local history.

Feb. 12. Ellijay has four postal employees, a civil service secretary, four rural mail routes, one star rural mail route, and four contract star mail routes.

April 30. The Burdine clinic opens at Ellijay.

May 26. The Gilmer Fair association is formed for the purpose of giving better drainage and more room for exhibits and livestock sales.

July 16. Truman Shippen dies in Detroit, Michigan. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Shippen and a nephew of the late Will H. Shippen. Among survivors are Mrs. Elizabeth Shippen McWhorter and Herbert Shippen.

Aug. 3. Noah W. Pettit, former teacher, postmaster and merchant dies in Cartecay district, the old home of the early settlers of his family. He once resided in Boardtown; then, for a time, in Ellijay. He was a generous consultant on past days.

Aug. 20. R. C. Welch dies at his Ellijay home. He was the son of W. R. Welch, a major in the Confederate army. R. C. ("Cliff") is survived by his wife; a sister, Mrs. J. N. Brown. Mr. Welch had a keen recollection of past days and events around Ellijay and related them well.

Artesian water for the use of the new hospital and high school a mile south of Ellijay is reported to have been struck at a depth of 186 feet, and to be flowing 129,000 gallons a day.

Nov. 1. Cartecay Methodist church observes its 100th anniversary. The Sunday School of this congregation began an unorganized work in 1851; then an organized procedure in 1853. In 1834 William Ellington I had donated land for the first church site. The present meeting house was erected in 1859.

Participants in this work and their spirit and attitude are credited, also, with the establishment of a preaching station, incorporated 1842, at the site of what developed into an educational institution, beginning in 1867 and known as Oakland academy.

Nov. 25. The death of William Henry (Bill) Shippen is reported from Washington, D. C. Mr. Shippen was the son of W. H. Shippen.

Dec. 17. Boardtown community wins a $750 prize in a competition involving 115 communities.

Gilmer Rotarians hear Karl Aschersleben, a German youth, in an impressive address.

After Dec. 31, 1953, Gilmer County will have only four post offices—Ellijay, East Ellijay, White Stone, Cherry Log. White Stone barely missed being in Pickens county. Cherry Log also distributes mail to Aska and Newport eastward in Fannin county; and to Higdon's and, a part of the time, to Epworth, also in Fannin county, both routes leading a northwesterly direction from Gilmer.

A new rural mail route, No. 5, will serve communities that formerly got mail at Pike, Roy, Diamond, Pisgah and Ralston post offices. Other such offices discontinued are Talona, established May 17, 1820, and thus having the honor of being the oldest post office in original Gilmer; Cartecay, Quill, Marion. The communities in which the last three are located will be served daily by a star route out of Ellijay.

Talona community will have a rural route beginning at Whitestone. This route will also serve a thrice-a-week star route that will continue mail to Cartecay.

1954

Jan. 1. Landrum Ballew, 92, dies in the County. He remembered many of the early settlers that composed the whites who were living here before the Indians left. He even had a part in improving the hard conditions, gradually and patiently. His wife was Rena Orr, daughter of Farmer Orr.

Jan. 8. Claude E. Brown dies in Atlanta at the age of 56. Mr. Brown was a graduate of Mercer University. He was honored as a teacher and lay minister. He was a native of Gilmer.

Survivors, who continued to live in Ellijay, are his widow, the former Miss Edith Henson; and a son, Truett Emory, a student of the University of Georgia; and a daughter, Sandra, a student in Gilmer County high school, now deceased.

Jan. 13. Heavy floods are marked over the County, especially about the Ellijay area.

Jan. 27. Mrs. C. B. Kelley, the former Miss Mattie Jarrett, dies. She lived exactly 82 years. She was the wife of C. B. Kelley. A faithful friend and loyal co-worker, Mrs. Kelley did her part to improve the quality of this historical record.

Feb. 4. United action for the better control of flood waters of the Oostanaula river (Gilmer County's main drainage basin) gathers force.

The funeral of Mrs. Delmar Mullinax, talented young matron, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Oliver, is held.

Feb. 11. Bids for building or expanding the following schools are opened in Atlanta: Gilmer County high, Boardtown, East Ellijay, Oakland, Cherry Log, Henry Grady, Tails Creek, Tickanetley. But all bids are rejected because in excess of appropriations set up for this purpose. Contracts for actual construction were not announced until May 20. The total amount of the contracts was $600,000.

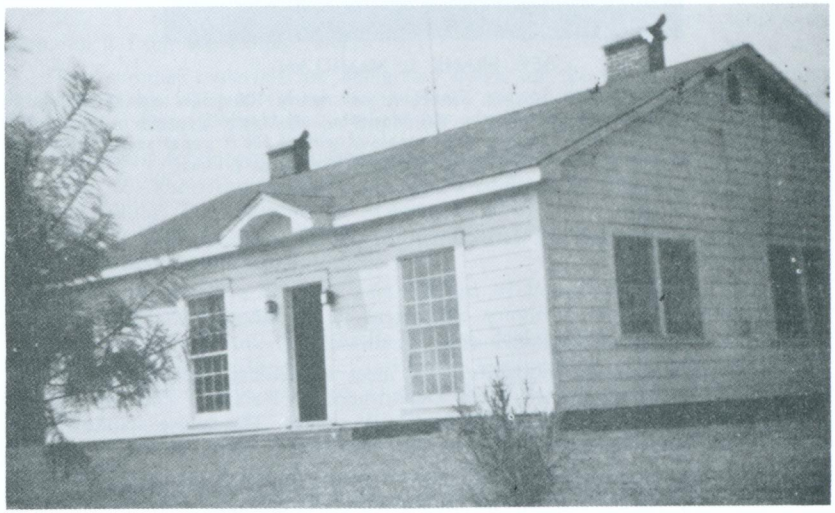
Early this year data on the Gilmer County library are released. The library opened July 1, 1940, in the county courthouse as a Federal project. It was sponsored by the J & C Bedspread Company, the City of Ellijay, the Woman's Club. In 1943 the Lions Club began giving $150 a year.

In the autumn of 1943 the library was moved to the Ellijay Grammar school. After 1946 the J & C Company discontinued giving. In 1945, 1946, 1947 the County Board of Commissioners gave $100 a year; from 1949 to date, $50 a year. The PTA helped one year.

The Woman's club, the Lions club and the Rotarians contribute regularly for the library's continued operation.

In 1948 Mrs. Catharine Stembridge became full time librarian; then, in 1949, Mrs. Fannie Davis took over the same responsibilities. She, in turn, was succeeded by Miss Ethel Henson. The library of the Ellijay Elementary school has been consolidated with the Gilmer County library in a new location which is a part of the cannery building.

A



B

Sign and Building of the Gilmer County Forestry Unit of the State Forestry Department
Dedicated Tuesday, March 2, 1954

He Bettered Morally and Commercially

REV. FRANK L. McMILLAN

Who spent his last years at Smyrna, Georgia, was nearly 100 years old at his death. In 1880 he became connected with the old Marietta and North Georgia railroad when it ran only from Marietta to Canton, and remained with it till it penetrated three miles into Gilmer. He drove the first locomotive across the County line.

This plan provides a library convenient to all schools of the County, in addition to a Bookmobile, which goes to all of them.

An enthusiastic and thoughtful few meet to dedicate the Gilmer County Forestry Unit building of the State Department of Forestry. The site for the structure had already been donated by C. W. Kiker. The house stands by the Atlanta highway a short way south of the Coosawattee river bridge.

At the meeting for dedication, Sam O. Penland presided. Clarence Waddell and Calvin Jackson were members of the interested group.

The building was realized partly by cash donations. It cost $2500. But this sum does not include the well and pump attached. Except for work done by bricklayers and plumbers in erecting the house, most of the work was done by the local staff of Forestry workers.

About this time at least a part of the personnel housed in the unit building were J. L. Dover, ranger; Joe Charles, assistant ranger; Charley Sullivan, tower man. The organization operates two towers. One of these is on Whisenant mountain and the other, maintained the year around, is on Reed mountain.

March 5. Gilmer County Library board meets in preparation for transfer of facilities from Ellijay High school to new school buildings projected for the County.

The first members of this board were Mrs. Joe McCutchen, Mrs. Elsie Smith Birdsall, Willard Holden, L. N. Foster, and C. F. Owen.

Present members are A. H. Edwards, C. F. Owen, Bryan Parks, H. S. Peek, Charley Waters, Avary Dimmock, Mrs. H. E. Chastain, Mrs. E. T. Hudson.

March 10. The historic old Cobb home, long a landmark, a mile south of Ellijay, is destroyed by fire of unknown origin. During the late years of Indian occupation the home of Chief Walking Stick stood on the same site. A white pioneer named Benjamin Johnson later acquired the location and built this house there, "before the Civil War."

John P. Cobb Sr. then bought the Johnson house and the lands adjoining them and occupied them for many years. Neal Gentry owned both and lived there. Dr. E. W. Watkins owned the place for a few years. And, during late years, the Georgia Power Company has been in possession. The last use of the premises was to build a poultry processing plant upon it. A good new street going by it is called Industrial Boulevard. A fine, sturdy bridge of cement and steel spans the Coosawattee river just south of the site.

March 17. Boardtown holds a fish fry and dedication of the community's club house eight miles north of Ellijay. Gov. Herman Talmadge is guest speaker.

June 24. Walter F. Cobb, last of the immediate J. P. Cobb family, dies in Texas.

July 1. Beginning on this date, Ellijay doubles its water supply by pumping it from the Ellijay river.

This summer materials are being laid down for the construction of educational buildings: Gilmer County high, Henry Grady, Boardtown, Southwestern. Three other schoolhouses will be improved and enlarged.

In August foreigners visit Boardtown to study the community's progress.

Aug. 20. The Hospital Authority signs a contract to build a hospital a mile south of Ellijay. The institution is to cost $330,000.

Wiley L. Plemmons dies in Boardtown district. He was always a willing and valuable consultant on things historic.

Five new members of the County Board of Education, for the first time, are elected by popular vote.

Dec. 16. Rev. Frank L. McMillan dies in Atlanta. He was an active, most dependable man in development of rail traffic in Gilmer from the time a railroad entered our bounds. He was also widely welcomed as a Baptist minister.

Mrs. T. C. Withrow, representing the best order of our citizenship, dies at Ellijay.

Boardtown, top winner in community improvement club competition, is accorded editorial notice by the Atlanta Constitution.

Dec. 31. We learn of the death of Mrs. L. E. Bishop in Cartersville. She is survived by a son, Alfred, Lafayette, Ga.; a sister, Mrs. E. F. Waters, Ellijay; a brother, Frank Greer, Ellijay. Mrs. Bishop was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Levi M. Greer, prominent pioneers of the County.

1955

Miss Haley Holt, adept in folk music, granddaughter of Osborn Holt, pioneer, dies.

The last of March the thermometer falls so low that many of the usual charms of spring are destroyed or badly belated. The fruit loss is heavy. It goes down to eight degrees plus.

April 30. Newspapers record the death, in New York, of Admiral John Henry Towers (USN. Ret.). The Admiral was a native of Rome, Georgia. But a considerable part of his ancestry was from Gilmer County.

He was called the Navy's senior flier. He was former commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet and head of the Navy's policy-making General Board. He saw service in both World Wars and immediately after World War II was military governor of all American-occupied islands in the Pacific.

But it was as a pioneer in naval aviation that the 70-year-old officer was especially known. Admiral Towers learned to fly in the summer of 1911. His instructor was Glenn Curtiss, famed civilian flying expert and a trail blazer in the field of aviation design and engineering.

The admiral saw naval aviation develop from crude pusher-type craft to the sleek jet fighters of the present day.

He commanded the expedition which made the first seaplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1919. The admiral's craft was forced down at sea, but another unit of the flight, the NC-4, successfully completed the mission.

He was survived by his wife; a daughter, Mrs. N. P. Rotureau of Pensacola. Florida, and a son, Charles F. Towers of Loyd Neck, Long Island, New York.

May 2. Mrs. Dessie Tatum (maiden name Allen) is 100 years old today, and she lived until August 24.

FFA string band, state title winner in 1954, retains its district leadership.

Early in June the Davenport Hosiery mills are located on a 12-acre site a mile south of Ellijay.

Gilmer begins the erection of a new, better and more humane jail near its courthouse.

July 17. Gilmer dedicates a new hospital, a 25-bed institution, of brick having "all medical and surgical facilities."

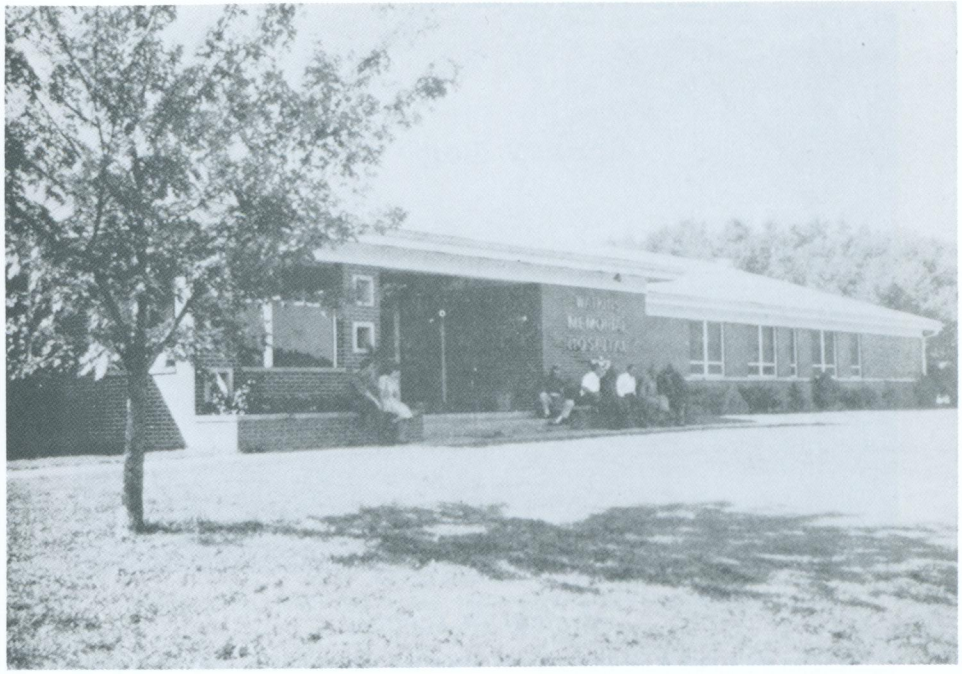
The last of the same month the Ellijay Courier recounts progress: Besides a hospital and a hosiery mill, we have a new high school building, all three being in the same vicinity a mile south of Ellijay.

An annex, 40 by 60 feet, three stories high, for educational purposes, has been erected at the First Baptist church of Ellijay. The paper also mentions, in addition to the new jail, a sheriff's home near the courthouse, which was occupied November 14.

Early in August East Ellijay votes bonds for an improved water system, a plan by which Ellijay is to supply the water. Another water line south is being extended from Ellijay to supply water needs in that direction.

In October John Garrett dies in Rome. A brave, conscientious citizen during his long residence in Gilmer County, serving us as an official.

In November Oakland school house is heavily damaged by fire. But its work continues in temporary quarters.



NEW HOSPITAL

The name of this new institution is Watkins Memorial. It is said to have been nemed for Dr. E. W. Watkins, Sr. and his brother, John Watkins, also a physician. Dr. E. W. Watkins, Jr. made a donation of $50,000 to the hospital. He cut the tape the day the new institution was dedicated, July 17, 1955.

Nov. 14 and 17. The Davenport Hosiery mills hold an open house.

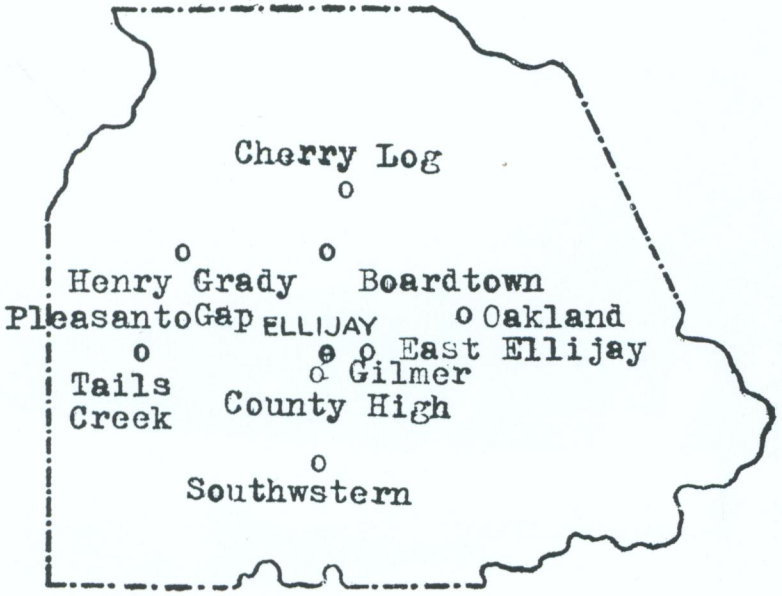
During the year Town Creek community erects a $6,000 club house, mainly with volunteer labor. Later in the year, at a meeting in Atlanta, it is announced that this community has won a regional competition in improvement. It is awarded second-place prize of $750. At the same meeting Boardtown wins sweepstakes honors and $300 in cash.

Dec. 1. Funeral services for Mrs. Gilla Ann Gibson, 96, are held at Flat Branch. Mrs. Gibson descended from some of our earliest families. She had a marvelous memory and a gift for telling the lore she had learned from persons still older than she was. Mrs. Gibson has honored us by leaving us some of this folklore. She will be remembered.

1956

Jan. 5. Ralph D. Owen, son of Times-Courier editor, C. F. Owen, recounts, in well worded condensation, life and things when he came to Ellijay 40 years before.

April 12. Lockheed Aircraft corporation and the USAF announce plans to erect aircraft facilities in Dawson county, adjoining Gilmer on the east.



LOCATION OF SCHOOLS

It has taken more than a hundred years to attain the present location and development of our schools as here shown.

Sunday, April 22. Luther Wingard of Cherry Log is presented, along with his collection of antiques, in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution by Celestine Sibley.

May 3. Hampton Mills, Inc., announces plans to open a plant for the manufacture of tufted products, the new industry to begin operations in about a month.

June 14. East Ellijay greatly improves its water system. It now receives water from a pump placed near the upper Ellijay river bridge in Ellijay. The water is pumped more than a mile, and is forced under two rivers.

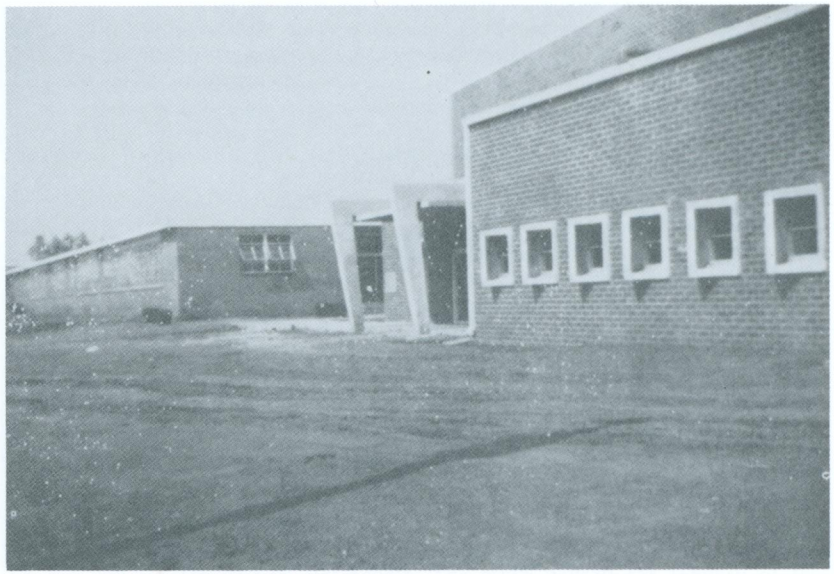
June 28. The Ellijay Telephone Company is progressing in type of telephones, long distance lines, plans for new headquarters in Ellijay, and extension of service.

July 13. Ellijay 5 & 10 Store, a new enterprise, opens.

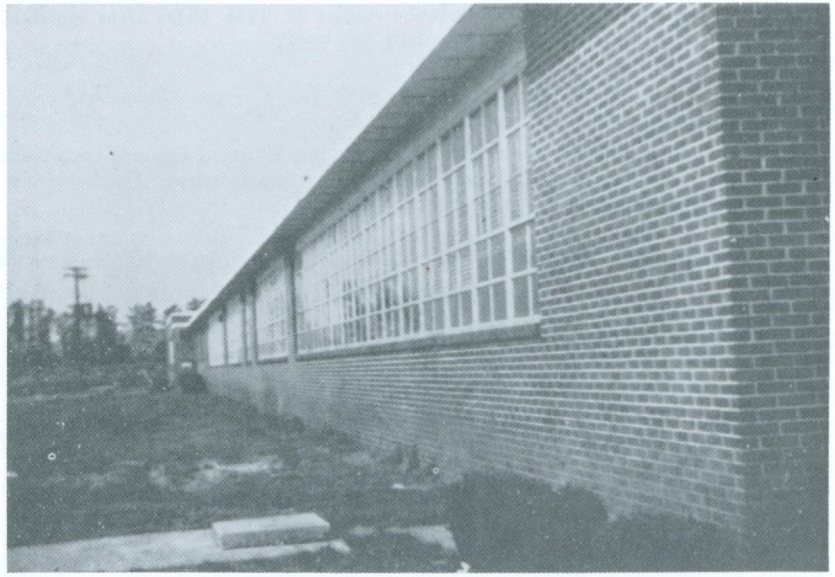
July 19. The Davenport Hosiery miil announces its purpose to enlarge its Ellijay plant.

Friday, Aug. 24. A dedication program for Gilmer school houses recently constructed is held at the new high school, called Gilmer High.

The day was also "open house" at the following schools:



Annex at the north end of the Main building but recently completed.



NEW GILMER HIGH SCHOOL

Dedicated August 24, 1954, this institution has room for the Present and Space to Grow.

NEW HOUSING FOR THE GILMER COUNTY FAIR

After the organization of the Gilmer County Fair association in 1953, this group went to work and leased and later purchased land near the new high school for further progress. The fair opened in its new location August 27, 1956. Ellijay Lions sponsored and financed this forward step. Hill Crawford was builder.

Gilmer High (the County's only high school); Ellijay (this and succeeding schools are elementary); East Ellijay, Oakland, Southwestern, Henry Grady, Cherry Log-Buchanan, Boardtown, Tails Creek.

Two other schools, one-teacher type, Flat Branch, near the northern limits of Ellijay district, and another in Tickanetley district, existed until the autumn of 1957, when both were abolished on the grounds that their attendance was too small.

Oct. 7. Cartecay Methodist church observes its 105th anniversary.

Nov. 6. Gilmer goes Republican in the race for president between Adlai E. Stevenson and Dwight D. Eisenhower, incumbent in the office.

Dec. 13. Town Creek and Boardtown communities are honored at an Atlanta banquet. Town Creek receives $1,000; Boardtown, $300.

1957

Jan. 21. The death of an honored citizen, friendly and hospitable, Julius Rogers, occurs. Mr. Rogers long lived in the Pleasant Hill community of Mountaintown district. He once operated a post office called Ollie. He also kept a water-powered grist mill with its pioneer-type overshot wheel, admired by lovers of the quaint as they passed by.

Jan. 31. The Watkins Memorial hospital, having met some legal questions regarding its operation, is considering change of management. A. C. McKee, R. E. Crawford and Andrew Fearing of Atlanta apply in legal form for a charter to take over its management.

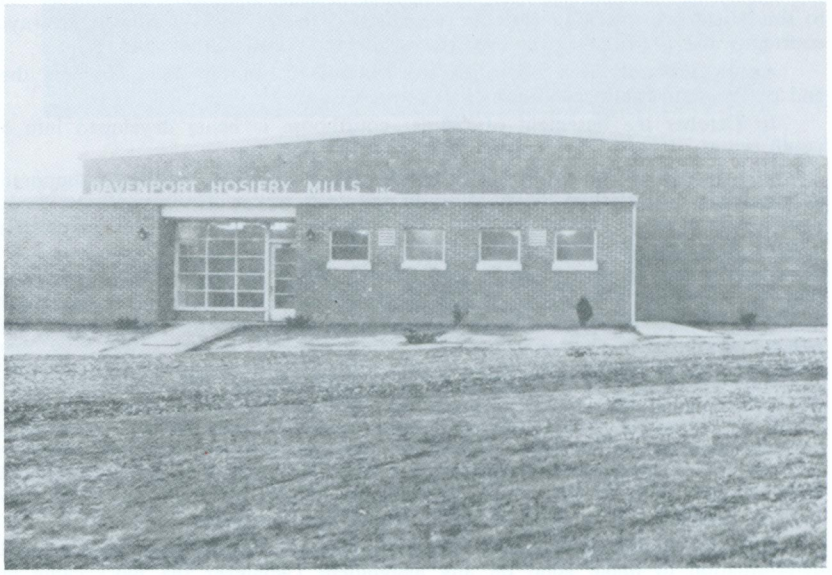
March 3. Willis & McMichen, contracting firm of Fort Payne, Alabama, is awarded the contract to erect two buildings for the Ellijay Telephone Company. The Ellijay structure, located at 36 Dalton Street, one story and a basement, is to be 24 by 54 feet, modern and heated by gas, air-conditioned. And by September 27 the building was near enough completion that S. B. Green, president of the Ellijay Telephone Company, could move into it.

Another building is scheduled to stand across Talona valley opposite the Willingham-Little Stone Company on the northern edge of Whitestone. This building is to house equipment only.

March 14. The death of C. B. Kelley is noted. During part of his early active life he was an engineer on our railroad. Later he was identified with farm operations, merchandising and other types of business. Mr. Kelley also closely identified himself with the religious and musical life of his community.

In March, also, the Davenport Hosiery mills of Ellijay announced an important step in progress, recalling that in October 1956 their plant had decided to double the size of its operations. They state, further, that this expansion is now an accomplished fact.

The mill company adds that the enlarged plant, with all its machinery installed, will represent an investment of two million dollars. The newly expanded industry will employ 250 to 300 people. The mill's payroll for January of this year is stated to have been more than $40,000.



DAVENPORT HOSIERY MILLS

J. T. Johnston, president; Harry Pease, manager

The management of Gilmer's new hospital seeks more definite understanding on details of the institution's connection with the Seventh Day Adventists.

May 19. Oakland school, 90 years after its establishment, enters the last of several buildings that have housed the school.

A new mortuary, Hefner-Chastain's, opens in Ellijay in a building once known as the First Baptist church.

June 4. The Georgia Rural Roads authority approves construction of several more miles of paved roads in Boardtown . . . . . and progress in actually building roads provided for is marked before the end of the year.

Linden moths, developed from the common "inch worm" of the County, attack Gilmer forests. They are white, feeding principally upon oak and hickory leaves. They threaten serious damage and to thrust upon us a major and pressing problem.

The severe winter of 1957-58 we hoped might settle the threat. But it did not. And now it seems that a fly about twice the size of a housefly, is our latest, best hope. Research by entomologists reveal the fly has a habit of laying its egg in the pupa form of the moth, and breeding flies instead of moths. At this time the moth is gone. It began to decline in 1959, and two years later disappeared. In addition to the flies, birds, fish, beetles helped us wage war on what, at one time, looked like one of the plagues of Egypt.

June 15. The old Tankersley building in front of the Gilmer County courthouse is being razed to make way for a larger building. The site of the old building had been previously acquired by operators of the present bank of Ellijay for their future use. The new building is under construction before the close of 1957. The new bank is to be brick outside and inside, fireproof, modern in every respect, with drive-in conveniences for depositors.

July 7. Charles E. Stegall dies at his home at Oak Hill. Mr. Stegall was the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Stegall. The younger man gave substantial aid to this History in assisting with the mapping of the 15 militia districts. Always courteous and patient, he was ever the intelligent friend of progress.

Asiatic influenza and other ills stop schools for a few days. But by the end of the year health conditions had improved.

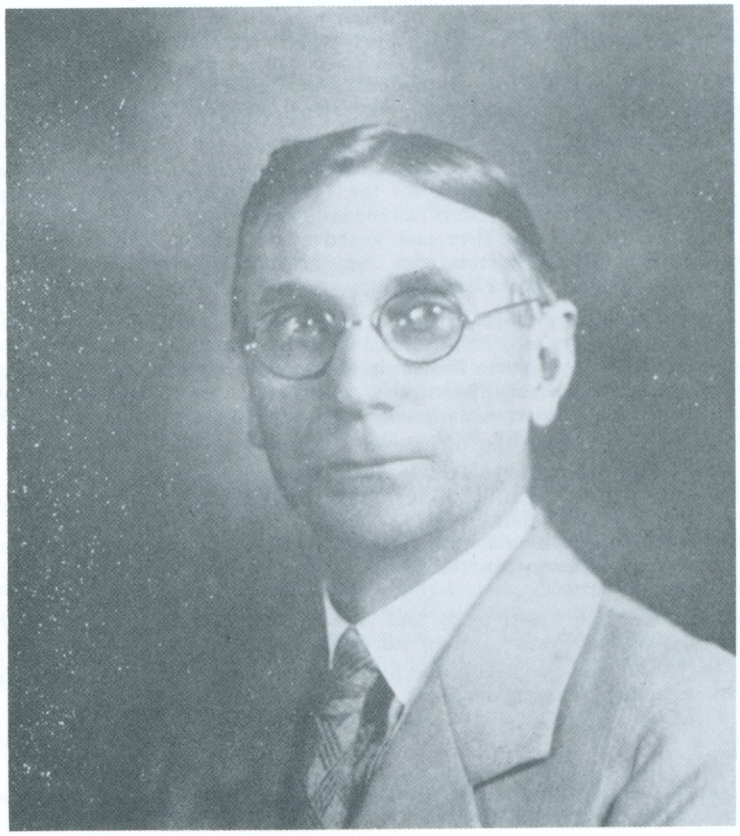
In October the basement of Gilmer courthouse is being developed into a youth center.

Mrs. Nancy Pankey, widow of Confederate soldier Wiley Pankey, is honored in an article by Celestine Sibley, Constitution staff writer. Few people, perhaps, know Mrs. Pankey's enthusiasm for local history and her care in preserving historic data that come to her hands.

Dec. 2. The death of John Gordon Cole occurs in Atlanta. Mr. Cole was born April 25, 1872, in Ellijay. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cole, belonged to pioneer stock, his paternal grandfather, J. P. Cole, having come here from North Carolina.

His earliest active days were spent in helping on the home place in Mountaintown district, to which his parents had removed and settled. The place is still occupied, just west of Mountaintown Baptist meeting house. About 1885 he began teaching in his home county. He and Fletcher Holden taught together at Clear Creek. Terms were but three or four months each, and all teaching was done during warm weather beginning near the middle of July. Mr. Cole also assisted James Dover at Mountaintown school for two terms.

His most notable teaching, an experience that demonstrated his character and determination to make good on any assignment (whatever the pay) came at Cash's Valley, a region now deserted. In 1892 and '93, when he taught there, the school had about 45 students. Unassisted, he taught them all.



JOHN GORDON COLE

Intelligent, appreciative leader in recognition of the values of the History of Our Region; foreman of the Grand Jury that made this Recognition formal in the Spring of 1931.

The following tribute was paid him in the Masonic Messenger, February, 1958: "Brother J. Gordon Cole, Past Master of Oak Bowery Lodge No. 81, Ellijay, passed to his heavenly reward on December 2, 1957. Brother Cole was born April 25, 1872, and had spent his entire life in Gilmer County. He was educated in the schools of Ellijay and Young Harris College. For 35 years he had traveled as sales representative for the Chapman Drug Company, Knoxville, Tennessee. Brother Cole had served as Worshipful Master of Oak Bowery Lodge a total of 13 times. He had also served as Custodian of the Ninth District for 15 years. He was a member of the Ellijay Baptist Church to which he gave his strong support. He will be remembered by all the people of his community as one of Gilmer County's most useful citizens. The members of Oak Bowery Lodge extend sympathy to the family of their departed brother."

While at that work, he would trudge the trails from his home on weekends to the top of Flat Mountain, where a sister, Mrs. Nick Harper, lived, and with whom he boarded. For his work he received $15 a month compensation, and paid $5 out of that for board. He walked down into Cash's Valley every day to teach, then back up the mountain every night. And yet Mr. Cole became a wealthy man!

He attended Young Harris college, along as he could, continuing there till 1896. That year he went to work for the Teem Brothers Mercantile Company in Ellijay. Some two years later he began traveling for a Chattanooga drug firm. In 1901 he left that firm and joined the Chapman Drug Company of Knoxville, Tenn. His connection with the Chapman firm lasted 35 years. He severed this relation in the 1930s.

Among properties he operated or rented to others, upon his return home to Ellijay, was a drug store of his own managed by his brother Clinton Cole, still living in Ellijay, for 50 years. This business was settled, finally, in a building on a lot where a man named Dejournette once kept a store. The only bank in operation in Ellijay conducted its business here until it removed to the new bank quarters at the close of 1958. A shoe sales and repair shop operate there now.

In 1900 Mr. Cole married Mrs. Ina Kirby, a widow, whose maiden name was Teem. Though a man of affluence, investing wisely, Mr. Cole was always modest and restrained in his habits of living. He was also careful in his habits and conduct. In faith, he was a Baptist. At one time he was interested in the publication of a county newspaper, the Ellijay Times, in Ellijay. He was a leader in the Democratic party.

J. Gordon Cole was a ready and reliable consultant in the production of this History, which he was eager to see finished.

Dec. 11. Gilmer County has the heaviest fall of snow in several years. Zero and lower temperatures are reported.

1958

Jan. 10. Mrs. Sallie Waters, 79, dies at Ellijay. Widow of E. Frank Waters, she was kindly disposed and charitable in word and act.

Survivors include sons, James F. Waters and Charles E. Waters; four daughters, Miss Miriam Waters, Mrs. J. H. McGinty, Mrs. W. S. Manning, Mrs. J. E. Quinn; and a brother, Frank Greer.

Jan. 22. Gilmer Youth center in Ellijay is officially opened. "Fun and games for everyone."

Feb. 20. Land that was a part of the estate of the late Mrs. J. G. Cole is sold to Anderson Holt, who promptly begins to develop it into a site for a new and modernly appointed store. The land lies along upper River Street and on the north side. It has roomy and otherwise desirable office space upstairs.

Feb. 15. Snow begins, with temperatures of four below zero at Ellijay; some points reported lower. Schools close February 17 to 21. Damage is done telephones. A tractor is used in Boardtown to gather up eggs. Other tractors clean snow from the main roads. Much road surface is broken, and the damage is repaired slowly.

March 1. Mrs. Betty (Bishop) Brown, last local survivor of a once prominent and well established Gilmer family, dies. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Mahalia Wheeler, and a number of other relatives, considerably scattered.

March 18. Gilmer County Library fittingly observes National Library week. This library, located logically at Ellijay, deserves the highest commendation and most generous support in its work.

March 30. A new telephone system, dial, automatic, goes into operation at Ellijay and Whitestone. Half a million dollars has been spent in its modernization.

April 26. Gilmer loses all its prisoners, 66 in number, from its camp on Boardtown Road, halting their accustomed use on public roads. This action was taken by the Georgia Board of Corrections because of charges that B. C. Logan, county commissioner, has been employing some of them on private and industrial jobs.

May 5. A public meeting at Ellijay hears pleas for the return of the prisoners.

May 17. The prisoners (the identical men who were taken away having been brought back by local request) are back, and are received by the people with a bountiful supper.

May 18. A week proclaimed for observing Soil Stewardship ends. This work is organized and active in Gilmer. The personnel of the work, with offices at 48 Dodge Street, consists of J. S. Tankersley, district supervisor, of Gilmer County; J. C. Owens and J. B. Parker, work unit technicians.

Gilmer came into the Limestone Valley Soil district in 1940.

The work of the Soil Conservation office is as varied as it is important, consisting in part of conserving soil, water, timber, and wildlife.

Activities emphasize and point up the use of natural resources now with an eye on the future welfare. It also stresses leaving to posterity the land better than it was when we found it. In detail it may include, principally, crop rotation, cover crops, critical area planting, pasture planting, woodland improvement cutting, tree planting, fish pond improvement, wild life area improvement, farm drainage, land clearing, building of farm ponds, closed drainage, improvement of stream channels.

At this time quite a number of donors to the causes sponsored by this organization is listed.

June 26. Albert E. Harrison acquires a half interest in the Ellijay Telephone Company, and is to become president and general manager. S. B. Green is assuming the position of chairman of the board of directors.

A. S. and C. Committee

This organization has activities related to those performed by other "conservation" groups. Though it operates independently of all kindred organizations. It maintained headquarters near the Gilmer courthouse, then moved into the courthouse. Its name, spelt out fully, is the Gilmer County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee. It was launched 20 or more years ago as the "Triple A." It is under the sponsorship of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Its purposes are to work out with land operators practices on a cost-sharing basis. These plans apply to fertilizers, seed and other planting materials, permanent cover in orchards, liming, planting trees, improving permanent pasture and hay land.

The committee plan comprehends, also: Livestock dams, fencing, woodland improvement, sod waterways, protective cover, terraces, and diversion channels. Such diverse practices and materials are designed to afford present use of the soil and to provide that it may serve future generations as efficiently or better.

This office also offers soil-bank and A. M. O. (allotment, marketing and quota) services. It encourages wool production, guaranteeing a price for wool that will give an incentive to its production. In spite of such support (shared by

few) sheep raising remains in our County but a trifle compared with pioneer days, when every wanderer through the woods was sure to run into a flock of sheep soon.

The committee for the direction of this work consists of Carl Dover, chairman; William Garrett, vice chairman; and Ed Reece. Willard Ralston is county office manager and Robert Hill chief clerk.

July 10. The W. L. Cobb Construction Company of Decatur wins a road paving job in Boardtown, and is soon at the task. Headed straight north, the goal of the builders is to join a road, at the border of Fannin county, already completed and paved.

July 17. Cartecay community goes energetically about planning and building its own center house near Oakland school.

Gilmer is scheduled to receive its Federal aid on five new road projects to cost approximately $743,162.

Aug. 22. W. B. Sitten dies at his home in Ellijay. Mr. Sitten was a man with a fine memory and a real love for the pioneer days. And he was a most willing consultant on early history and tradition.

Oct. 9. Construction starts on additional space for the Davenport Hosiery mills at Ellijay. Of brick, the new addition is designed to be 100 feet long, and will add 7500 square feet to the productive area of the plant. The new space will be air-conditioned.

Livestock sales at the new fair ground buildings, during the last two years, have grossed nearly a million dollars.

Dec. 14. Snow four and more inches falls.

Dec. 31. The Bank of Ellijay begins moving into its new home across the public square from quarters now occupied by the Eller shoe business. It had been in the quarters it is now vacating since June 1, 1915. The year preceding (June 1, 1914 to June 1, 1915) it occupied the old Telephone building.

Present personnel of the bank is E. T. Hudson, president; Dow Hamrick, Glenn Marshall, Mrs. Bill Westmoreland. Mrs. Oleeta Sales, Mrs. Jean Woodring, Miss Betty Jean Davis.

1959

Jan. 1. Harold Hefner becomes chairman of the commissioners of roads and revenues. Advisory members of the board are Joe P. Holloway and J. L. Henson. Mrs. R. L. Pinson is now commission clerk. Gola Wishon is now warden of the county work camp; Everett Reece, deputy warden.

Jan. 16. Dun & Bradstreet reveals 100 manufacturers and retailers in this area, an increase of eight percent over 1955. This figure does not include the service and professional businesses such as beauty and barber shops and stock and real estate brokers.

Feb. 19. Mrs. J. W. Wimpey dies at Ellijay. Survivors include her husband, John W. Wimpey; daughters, Mrs. Guy Peek, Mrs. Wilson Mosely, Mrs. Bill Wingate; sons, Grady C., Thelbert, Burchard, Hubert.

Feb. 22. Mrs. Kate Searcey, 98, dies at her home in Cherry Log district. Born April 3, 1860, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Whitaker, she had many rich memories of gold mining and social life at White Path and reconstruction following the Civil War. Survivors, daughters: Mrs. L. A. Johnson, Mrs. C. B. Hice, Mrs. Iris Farrington, Mrs. Florence Harris; sons, Sim Searcey, Edward Searcey.

Feb. 26. Billy Wimpey, 16, produces at least 100 bushels of corn on one acre of ground. In 1957 he raised 181 bushels on his acre, thus earning the FFA championship in corn growing in Georgia for 1958.

March 7. Construction of a huge dam on the Coosawattee river at Carter's, in Murray county, is recommended by the U. S. Corps of Engineers, the dam to cost $38,000,000. In addition to being a large producer of power, the dam would serve as a flood and flow control project and have recreation value. Its waters would back up to the vicinity of Ellijay.

April 16. Boardtown reports substantial progress on its road north.

April 19. Funeral for Mrs. B. C. Logan Sr. is held at Ellijay. Survivors include her husband, B. C. Logan Sr.; sons, Charlie, Ernest, B. C. Jr., Clay; daughters, Mrs. Ruel Tankersley, Mrs. A. C. Holt, Mrs. James Garland, Mrs. Earl Ravon.

April 23. Ground breaking for a modern poultry processing plant just south of Ellijay city limits takes place.

April 24. Holt's new 5 & 10 cent store on River Street, Ellijay, opens.

May 28. Former Governor Ellis Arnall apprises our local newspaper that he favors segregation but wants to see our public schools open. And, he adds, he will be a candidate for governor in 1962 if Georgia's schools are closed over segregation.

July 2. Last rites for W. R. Fain, a helpful, friendly citizen, are held at Salem church in Boardtown district. He is survived by three sons, Luther, Willard and Vernon.

July 30. H. M. Judd of Dalton is successful bidder on building of a bridge across Tails creek on the Carter's Quarters road.

Aug. 20. Chattanooga Boiler and Tank Co. of Chattanooga, Tenn., is announced as successful bidder for construction of a new city water tank.

W. S. Pruett Construction Co. of Atlanta is also a successful bidder on laying a new water line to the poultry processing plant now under construction.

Representative Phil Landrum's labor bill wins approval though his original version of the bill was slightly watered down before final action.

Aug. 21. L. U. Martin, former teacher, 86, dies at his home in Cartecay district. His home was the site of one of the first Gilmer houses inhabited by white people. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Eula Tabor Martin; a son, Col. Lewis Tabor; two daughters, Mrs. Mozelle Talley and Mrs. Inez Crisp; a brother, W. P. Martin, educational leader and attorney, Gainesville; a sister, Mrs. W. C. Mason.

Aug. 27. Ellijay sells $211,000 worth of water revenue certificates at par to J. W. Tindall Company of Atlanta. These will re-finance existing certificates plus $40,000 more to pay for a new 300,000 gallon tank and a water main to the poultry processing plant near the city's southern limits. The new tank is located near the Davenport Hosiery mills.

Ellijay originally had a water supply derived from a huge spring two miles from town and 215 feet higher than street levels. Two other large springs were later connected to the system. Still later a deep well was provided; and more recently a water treatment plant supplied by Ellijay river was put in service to meet all anticipated needs. This, together with three other tanks already operating, gives the city a storage capacity of 700,000 gallons.

Sept. 17. We learn from E. B. Emrey of Decatur additional facts about Ellijay telephones. Mr. Emrey states: "The earliest information we have is that

W. G. Owenby, B. S. Holden and J. H. Carter incorporated the Ellijay Telephone Company after purchasing it from unknown owners in 1904.

"Four years later the company was acquired by Dr. E. W. Watkins, and he operated it until Oct. 1946, when it again changed into the hands of S. B. Green and family. In 1958 Mr. Green took on a partner, A. E. Harrison, experienced in telephone work.

"When Mr. Green purchased the plant in 1946, there were 154 telephones, while in 1959 there were 1050, a number later revised to 1100. The business phase of the service was housed in two new buildings, equipped with automatic exchanges with completely rebuilt plant for its accomodation."

Oct. 11. A two-section excursion train carries 1,175 passengers north, treating them again to the privilege of re-living past days or learning what a train ride is like, to Apalachia, Tenn., and back. One hundred thirty-five of the excursionists were from Ellijay, the only stop of the train in Gilmer County.

Mrs. B. H. Osborn, 82, a member of the party, recalls the first excursion train north from Ellijay, which ran about 1886. It started from Atlanta and ended at Nottely river in North Carolina. The train consisted of a single coach, and it was so crowded by the time it got to Ellijay the Gilmer folk had to jam into a slatted stock car. Others picked up rode a flat car all day in the rain, but seemed to enjoy the trip.

Nov. 8. Joseph Jud Kincaid dies at his home in eastern Gilmer. Mr. Kincaid, reportedly, was the victim of gunshot wounds.

Nov. 13. Alfred D. Dover dies. Survivors include his widow; a daughter, Mrs. Robert Hill; sons, Greer and Jason; four brothers, Cicero, Burley, Vestal, Landrum; three sisters, Mrs. Stanton Douthit, Mrs. Herbert James, Mrs. Walter Vickery.

Some surprises in the weather during 1959:

Jan. 5, zero.

Next day, two below.

Jan. 16, snowy.

Next day, three below.

Feb. 21, zero.

Marh 12, snowy.

March 17. Fifteen degrees colder than Boston.

June 20. Down to 44.

Nov. 19. Fourteen degrees, four degrees colder than Anchorage, Alaska.

Nov. 28-29. More snow.

Nov. 30. Three degrees above zero.

1960

Jan. 5. Funeral for John W. Wimpey is held at Ellijay. A former teacher and farmer, he founded a wholesale and retail oil business at Ellijay.

Jan. 12. Mrs. Charles G. Cornell dies at Ellijay.

Jan. 21. Bookmobile schedule for the rest of the school year is announced.

Jan. 24. Funeral for Mrs. Wesley Miller, 87, member of a pioneer family, is held at Buckhorn Baptist church. She was a daughter of Larkin Holt II. Survivors are three sons, George and Claude of Ellijay; Hoke of New York. Daughters: Miss Alice, Mrs. H. J. Jones, Mrs. J. C. Jones, Mrs. George Doster; three sisters, Mrs. Lunsford Alsobrook, Mrs. James B. Smith, Mrs. Jerry Patterson.

Mrs. Bessie Gaines Sailors, 96, dies on Feb. 12.

Feb. 18. Gilmer is planning construction of a new prison camp four miles east of Ellijay on Georgia 52 road to Gainesville. The camp will be on a forty-acre tract and is to have 10,000 square feet of floor space. The main building will house prisoners and personnel.

Feb. 21. Snow covers Gilmer; in the mountains a depth of 15 inches is reported.

March 2. Rev. J. S. Defoor dies. He was ordained 28 years before. Survivors are; His wife, whose maiden name was Miss Millie Woodward; seven sons, Herschel, Odis, Alvin, Clarence, J. S. Jr., Paul, Lee; two daughters, Mrs. Buran Logan and Mrs. Vera McPherson.

Some of our citizens can remember Tom Defoor, a big dark strong man that blacksmithed. He was the father of J. S. Defoor, who also did good smithing, his trademark being a job well done at a reasonable charge.

March 1-10. Light snow came March 1. Then a heavy sleet begins March 3 (Wednesday). At 11 a. m. that day schools closed for the rest of the week; and, on Monday of the following week, roads iced over so fast a school bus driver reported it took him seven hours and required cutting out of the way 90 trees that had fallen into and across the road for him to get around his route.

Damage to forests is estimated at "millions."

One snow follows another. No one can recall a March that even compares, in severity, with it.

April 1. Representatives of Gilmer County high school, in the regional Literary meet, held at Shorter college, Rome, place second among 10 competing schools.

April 4. Funeral for James E. Kell, of a pioneer family, is held at Newhope Baptist church.

April 19. The funeral of J. D. (Jube) Stewart is held at Etowah, Tenn. A native of Gilmer himself, he leaves a brother Arthur in Cherry Log district and another, Grady, in Etowah; his widow.

April 22. Andrew Jackson (Jack) Williams, 75, dies. Survivors are his wife; three sons, A. J., Fonzo, Russell; a sister, Mrs. Rebecca Ann Kennemur. Mr. Williams was patient and neighborly and loved his church.

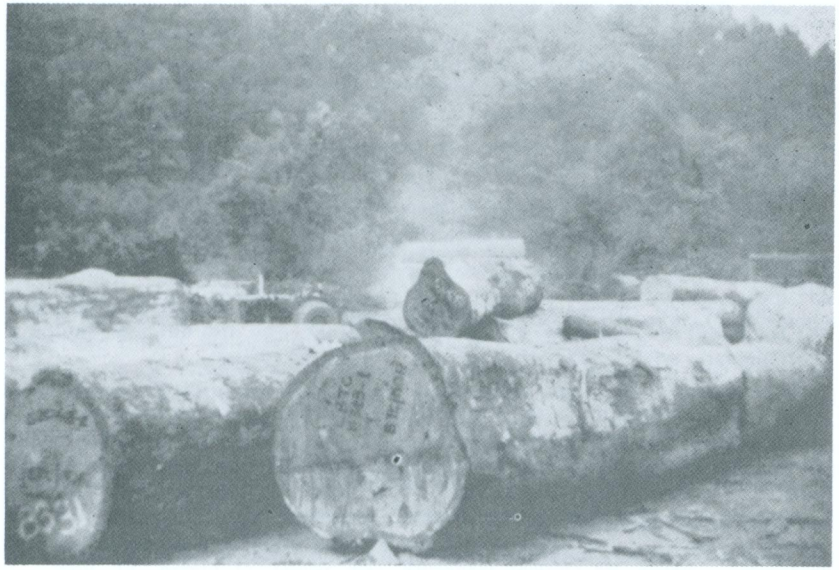
April 23. Willard C. Holden dies in Phoenix, Arizona. He was a son of John Holden of Diamond district. Willard C., 54, had an agreeable personality and was much liked as a public official, man of business and personal friend. During his early business career he was a teacher in our public schools.

He was genuinely interested in the History of Gilmer County. He made friendly suggestions that led to its enrichment, and cordially co-operated otherwise in its production.

May 7. Funeral of Mrs. Sady T. Wimpey is conducted at Nine Mile Methodist church. Survivors include R. V. Wimpey, husband; Reed, Clyde, R. V. Jr., Billy, sons; and also Fred Page, a foster son; two daughters, Mrs. Ted Wells, Mrs. Roy Leach.

May 11. Wilburn Hensley, Gilmer FFA'er, wins the NE Georgia district FFA public speaking contest at Jefferson, Ga. Wilburn is listed in the 1960 class of Gilmer high school.

May 12. Funeral for Willie M. Teague, 64, was held at Mount Vernon Baptist church. Surviving are: His wife, Ann Wright Teague; two daughters, Mrs. Willie Reece and Mrs. Calvin Hendrix; four sons, Theron. Thermon. Farrell,



WAH WAH LOGS FROM AFRICA

Basswood logs as are pictured in the Times-Courier April 21. Some of the logs yield up to 3,000 board feet of lumber. The lumber from them is to be made into high-grade molding. These logs were floated or otherwise transported out of central Africa for a three-weeks voyage to Wilmington, Norfolk and perhaps other ports, thence to Ellijay to be sawed by the Weissinger Lumber Company. The same tree grows in Gilmer County, where it is called linden or, for short, lin.

Thurston; four sisters, Mrs. Waddie Fendley, Mrs. Lewis Evans, Mrs. Mae Henseley, Mrs. Pluma Smith; four brothers, Ernest, Oscar, Avery, Albert.

May 31. Gilmer County High school announces a graduating class of 77 members.

June 21. Funeral for W. Herschel Allen, 81, is held at Miami, Florida. Mr. Allen was a native of our county and lived at Ellijay until about 1910. He was an intelligent, cultured man and was a first cousin to Roscoe Allen. He served the County well as a school superintendent, giving fine co-operation and encouragement to libraries in our public schools.

At the beginning of July, a long delayed announcement is made to the effect that Gilmer is modifying its election of members of the board of education.

July 24. Hill Crest homes, Ellijay's new low-rent public housing project, holds open house. G. L. Huff Sr., chairman of the Ellijay Housing authority, makes the announcement.

This very worthy endeavor consists of 40 dwelling units and an administration building. Renting is scheduled to begin the first of August. The office of this authority is to be moved to the project itself in a few days.

Members of the housing authority are E. T. Hudson, C. E. Waters, Bill Westmoreland, Waldon Ray.

July 28. Microfilming of vital records of the County is being conducted at the courthouse. The work is authorized by Miss Mary G. Bryant, director of the Georgia Department of Archives in the office of the Secretary of State, Ben W. Fortson Jr. The work is supervised by Mrs. Beatrice Lang. Filming is being done by Jesse P. Surles of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. County records to date were filmed. Other important filming was also done.

July 30. Apalachian Wagon train, commemorating the day and the spirit of the pioneers, moves slowly into Ellijay by way of the Chatsworth Road and demonstrates for moderns how to get there as you can and enjoy the trip.

Aug. 1. Judge Howell Brooke, judge of the Blue Ridge circuit (which includes Gilmer), dies suddenly at Canton.

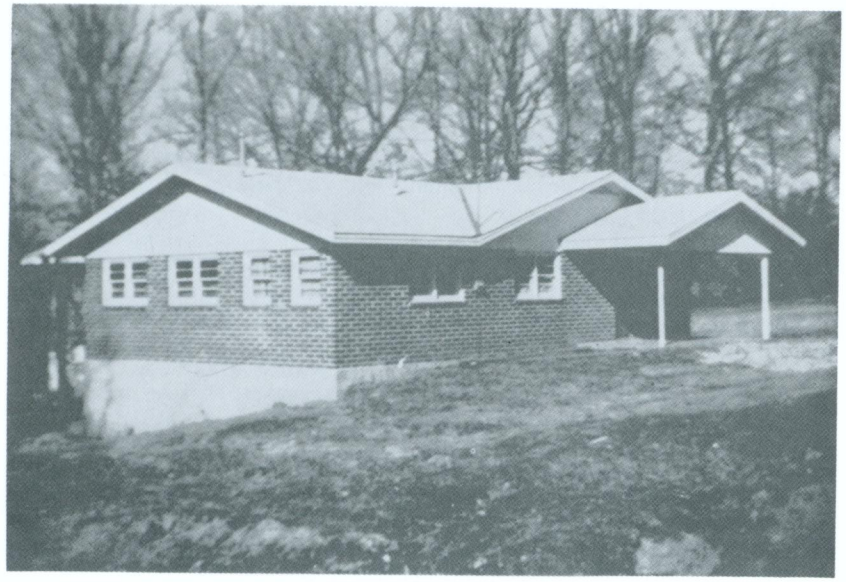
Aug. 4. Sam P. Burtz is appointed to succeed Judge Brooke.

Sept. 30. Final rites for Jasper N. Wright are held in North Carolina.

Oct. 2. Cartecay Sunday school, chartered in 1851 as the Cartecay Sabbath school, celebrates its 109th year as a religious assembly. First teachers and officers, in 1851, included Lewis D. Ellington, Joseph McClure, William S. Simmons Sr., I. S. Wikle, Daniel McDaniel, M. A. P. Ellington, Elizabeth Wikle, Ann Quillian, Daniel E. Slagle, Barnett Wilson, H. R. Wikle, Jane E. Tabor, Mary E. Simmons.

ELLIJAY'S NEW HOUSING PROJECT
HILL CREST HOMES

Photo by the Author. Taken on a sunny day looking north along project's main street.



ANOTHER MARK OF PROGRESS

This picture of Oakland Community's New Club House was made by the Author especially for this History.

Oct. 16. William F. Simmons, 76, dies at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Howard Reece. Lester, a brother, of Ellijay, is among survivors.

Oct. 22. Oakland community club house, near Oakland school and in sight of it, is dedicated to community progress. U. S. Senator Herman Talmadge is principal speaker.

Oct. 27. A new bridge spanning the Coosawattee river less than a mile south of Ellijay is dedicated. The structure, impressive in appearance, is of concrete and steel and is named for the late J. P. Cobb, after whom an older bridge nearby, marked at present by its old stone pillars only, was named.

The occasion was enlivened and inspired by the Ellijay school band. Peter Zack Geer, secretary to Governor Vandiver, and Phil Landrum, congressman from the ninth district, of which Gilmer is a part, made addresses.

The new bridge, about .25 of a mile down the river from the old original covered, pioneer-type Cobb bridge, connects routes 282 and 52 east. It opens to easy access and development a valuable area. Just across the bridge is route 5 running north and south.

Nov. 8. Sixty-one candidates offer themselves for public office thus the field is so full you can't see the issues for the candidates. A sensible boiling down

THE NEW BRIDGE

On the north side, looking east, crossing Coosawattee River.

process, prior to election, should leave only the two leading candidates (Democrat, Republican) in each field.

The candidate has a right to run. But on the other hand the people have rights. And one of these is to see a man in office that a majority of the people want. Richard M. Nixon, for President, carries Gilmer.

Nov. 12 Miss Mary Irene Orvis, 88, dies in Boardtown. She had served 35 years as a missionary teacher in Mexico, Argentina and Paraguay.

Nov. 26. Funeral for William T. Starks (known as "T. R.") is held at

RIBBON CUTTING ON NEW BRIDGE

The little girl doing the cutting is Nancy Lee Cobb, granddaughter of Roy Cobb, Jr., Mayor of Ellijay and Master of Ceremonies of the Occasion. She is a great-great granddaughter of J. P. Cobb, pioneer.

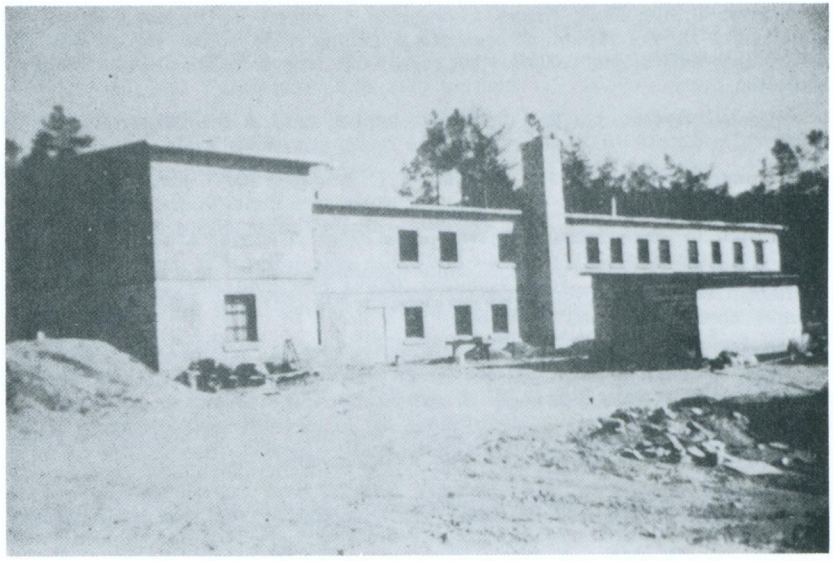
Newhope Baptist church. Survivors are: His wife, Rosa Nell; one son, Tommie; mother, Mrs. T. E. Starks; a brother, Claude Starks; three sisters, Mrs. Arthur Ballew, Mrs. Grady Withrow, Mrs. Austin Harper.

Dec. 1. Old Gilmer County jail, at 38 North Dalton Street, is being razed. It was built in 1891, construction being supervised by M. Swann, N. L. Osborn, T. J. Long. Its original cost was $5,200. Labor for its location was donated by Mrs. T. H. Tabor.

Dec. 9. William A. Simmons dies at the age of 99. He had lived in the home of Mrs. J. J. Osborn and Mrs. C. L. Osborn the last 15 years.

Dec. 30. Sol C. Sumner, 45, dies in Atlanta. He was a son of John Sumner, and was a native of the County.

Joseph Spurgeon Hice, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hice of Cherry Log is selected for the rank of major.



GILMER'S NEW PRISON

This new prison has been and is being conducted on humane and modern lines.

1961

Jan. 12. One hundred and thirteen businesses are listed by census count in Gilmer.

Plant 2 of the Willingham Little Stone Co., with a 60-ton per day capacity, burns at Whitestone.

Noah F. Parks' funeral is held at Ellijay. Masonic rites are observed. Mr. Parks was 89 at his death, Jan. 20.

Survivors include sons, Bryan, Morris, and Howard.

Jan. 22. Four below zero weather reported.

Jan. 28. Fred Lewis Holt dies at his home in this County.

Jan. 30 to Feb. 1. Gilmer Jaycees promote better health by sponsoring a free TB Chest X-Ray program. On Feb. 9 it was reported that 2,182 persons had been X-Rayed. But that is not all that is scheduled to be done.

Feb. 6. Ellijay extends its mail delivery to the housing project and other hilly parts in the extreme western section of the city. Doyal Young will be carrier and about 100 new families will be served.

Feb. 17. T. M. (Tom) Stephens dies. The funeral was held at Ellijay. The Odd Fellows conducted graveside services.

Feb. 26. Boy Scouts receive recognition and promotions.

March 9. The Daily Times, Gainesville, is quoted on annual spending by Americans: Twenty billion on legalized gambling, nine billion for alcohol, six and a half billion for tobacco, but only four and a half billion for higher education.

Funeral services for Mrs. J. C. Stanley are held at the Pisgah Church of Christ.

Among survivors are the husband, J. C. Stanley, and a son, Lawrence, of Greenville, S. C.

March 16. Fred Johnson returns to his work at Libya, Africa.

March 23. The Gilmer ASC County Committee reports progress in 1960: on permanent vegetative cover, limestone applied, tree seedlings planted, winter and summer cover crops, and drainage.

March 30. Gilmer is included in projected highway improvements. The first improvement contemplated will be 19.666 miles on S. R. 3 from the Pickens County line to a point just south of the Fannin County line.

J. H. Evans is killed in a car wreck five miles out on Chatsworth Road. Mr. Evans was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Evans.

April 2. Funeral for Mrs. Joy Ash, wife of Jack Darrell Ash, is held at Ellijay. Further services and interment were scheduled for next day at Fayetteville, N. C.

April 7. Grover C. Ward, 73, retired U. S. Army Master Sergeant, dies in Florida.

Among survivors are his widow, Mrs. Maybelle Ward; a daughter, Mrs. James Davis, Syracuse, N. Y.; a sister, Mrs. Mamie Schloss, East Ellijay. He was also related to George G. Ward, author of this History.

April 8. The Gilmer County Disaster Relief Association is formed for the immediate relief for those visited by dire hardships.

Initiated by the Gilmer County Junior Chamber of Commerce, the idea should become a part of our thinking as well as our giving.

April 14. Mrs. Cora Starks, 79, dies at Dalton, and is buried April 16 at Newhope church.

Mrs. Starks is survived by sons, Clyde Starks and Charlie Starks; three brothers, Dave Gibson, Charlie Gibson and Tommie Gibson, and a sister, Mrs. Will Abernathy.

April 25. Funeral for Mrs. May Evelyn Jones Legg is held at Salem in Boardtown district. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Jones.

Survivors include her husband, Dexter Legg, and a son, Clifton Legg, of

Akron, Ohio.

May 11. Bill Westmoreland, Gilmer County Clerk of the Court, has record books of his office, 14 in number, rebound, this being done at state expense. Records through August 1960 have been microfilmed, also.

May 21. Funeral services for Robert L. Wright, age 60, are held at Mt. Vernon Baptist church. Mr. Wright was a retired merchant and a Mason. He was active in gospel song groups. He was genial, agreeable and neighborly.

Survivors include his wife; three daughters, Miss Paulette Wright, Mrs. Saber Moseley and Mrs. Riley Beard; parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Wright; four sisters, Mrs. Iverson Kinser, Mrs. Willie Smith, Mrs. B. C. Logan Jr., Mrs. Wayne Weaver; four brothers, Derma, Ermel, Fletcher, Walter, Steve.

May 22. A Salvation Army service unit is organized at Ellijay.

Ninety-five are graduated from Gilmer high school. Hayden S. Kell is valedictorian, and Carole Duvall is salutatorian.

An Art exhibit is held at Ellijay elementary school, teachers and students of Gilmer schools participating. Such an occasion helps us to appreciate some of the finer things of our new age, as revealed by our own people.

June 1. A seemingly honest effort is being made to "equalize" county taxes. That's fine if it means justice to all.

June 3. Mrs. J. B. Hipp dies at Gainesville. Her funeral was conducted at Ellijay, and she was buried in Ellijay cemetery. Mrs. Hipp was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weaver. She was 83 years old.

Genuinely religious, she put character, faithfulness and heart into all her church relations.

Surviving are four daughters: Misses Bertha and Josephine Hipp, Ellijay; Mrs. Wilson Warlick, Newton, North Carolina; Mrs. David Arp, Naples, Italy; a sister, Mrs. J. M. Garrett, Rome, Georgia; a brother, McKinley Weaver, Augusta; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

June 8. Two men are caught and convicted of robbing the Marshall Bryan home of $13,520 in August 1960.

June 17. Mrs. R. C. Welch dies in Chattanooga. Her funeral was conducted at Ellijay June 19. Interment was in the City Cemetery.

Survivors include sisters, Mrs. Mary K. Saxenmeyer, Mrs. Stella Meyer.

Before removing to Chattanooga, Mrs. Welch lived at Ellijay, where she was an active and honored citizen.

June 22. Dwayne Withrow, Jack Dover, Ronnie Mathis and Patricia Hyatt are among 4-H achievements winners at Rock Eagle. Altogether there was a fine representation from Gilmer.

The Ellijay Telephone Company begins installing of additional central office equipment. The equipment used is manufactured in West Germany.

Woodie Price and Raymond Spear, representing the U. S. Instrument Corporation, installation men, have already arrived.

July 7. Funeral services for Jerome Franklin Greer are held at Ellijay. He was 84 years old.

Mr. Greer was an Odd Fellow and a Methodist.

Among survivors are a daughter, Mrs. Laura Bell Byrd, and one son, J. B. Greer of Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Greer was known for his phenomenal memory. The author has asked him about numerous historical data and always found him as correct as he was willing. He belonged to a pioneer family.

July 14. Robert McCandlish, 35, dies in Atlanta. Funeral services were conducted at Ellijay.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Aleece Hampton McCandlish; sons, Robert Montague, 9, and William Hampton, 6; and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar M. McCandlish, all of Ellijay. He was among our most progressive and intelligent young men.

July 15. The Sportsman's Club is acquainting the public with its sound policies.

July 22. Wagon Train celebration of the pioneers and their customs and character makes a full day of it at Ellijay.

The occasion consisted of bearded men, quaint costumes for the ladies, rides, hillbilly bands. The square dance of the evening was marred by rain.

The occasion was sponsored and boosted by local Jaycees.

Gilmer voters approve plans for building a new gymnasium for Gilmer County High School.

The total vote was 393 for; and 113 against.

Aug. 14. Bill Gudger reaches the age of 94.

Aug. 28 through Sept. 2. Gilmer County Fair is held. The fair is incorporated and sponsored by Ellijay Lions Club.

Sept. 1. Seth L. Hyatt, 58, dies in Atlanta.

Funeral was held in Ellijay Sunday. Mr. Hyatt lived in his old home community in Tails Creek district.

He was intelligent and helpful in public enterprise. He managed his own affairs well.

Among survivors are: his widow; daughters, Mrs. Tom Caudell, Miss Patricia Hyatt; sons, Jas L., Johnny L., Douglass; his mother, Mrs. John L. Hyatt; a sister, Mrs. B. J. Kidder; brothers, Spurgeon, Howard B., and Glenn D.

Mr. Hyatt will be remembered for the quality of his friendship and citizenship.

Aug. 26. The video tape of "The 4-H Hour," recorded at WAGA-TV the week before by 4-H club members, is telecast at 8 a. m.

Charlyce Poindexter, Terry Shaw, Gloria Dover, Walton Bates, Nancy Knight, Juanita Bates, Linda Jones, Margaret Sharpe, Suelle Quarles appeared once or more in demonstrations and musical parts.

Aug. 28 to Sept. 2. The annual Gilmer Fair is in progress; and is pronounced good.

Sept. 14. The National House of Representatives passes a bill appropriating $300,000 for completing a survey of Carter's Dam. The dam will be constructed near the Gilmer-Murray county line. It will afford relief from flood damage, and includes a hydroelectric plant which will furnish power valued at approximately $850,000 per year.

Sept. 26. Congress passes a million-dollar allocation for beginning construction of the dam itself. Later still "first steps" in the construction of the dam have begun. The dam will require five years to build, this being expected in 1968.

The lake to be formed by it will back up a reservoir of 3,300 acres in a narrow, winding channel 11 miles long. It is designed to become the highest dam east of the Mississippi river—400 feet.

Sept. 18. S. O. Penland Sr., 79, dies in Gainesville. In 1914 Mr. Penland entered the mercantile business at Ellijay. Several years ago he disposed of this business to his sons. He participated, while in the Georgia Legislature, in the creation of a state highway department. He was instrumental in giving our county a commissioner of roads and revenues.

Mr. Penland gave spirited pushes at procuring electric power for the rural folk. As a crowning service, he worked during his last few years for the Carter's dam project. He was listed, in the early years of this century, among the teachers of the County. He was faithful in his church relations.

Mr. Penland is survived by his widow; three sons, Jack, S. O., Thomas Lewis; three daughters, Mrs. M. I. Teem, Mrs. Bill Williams, Mrs. Foster Milton.

Oct. 8 to 15. Pleasant Hill, Tails Creek and the First Baptist of Ellijay, all three being Baptist congregations, hear missionaries from various fields of the world on the work they are doing and the problems they encounter. If we escape total war and the extinction of the human race, we'll find these consecrated people in the front ranks of those to be thanked.

Oct. 10. Funeral is held for James Pink Harper, 90 years old, at Flat Branch Baptist church, which Mr. Harper and his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Harper organized in 1902.

Oct. 26. Rural civil defense, in case people are threatened by thermonuclear fallout, a by-product of a nuclear explosion, is being clarified. W. H. Sailors ably presents the case in our local press. It is unthinkable to us that anybody would supinely (and unnaturally) resign himself to such a threat.

Law enforcement officers and grand juries seem to be determined to withstand the flood of crime. But much remains to be done. And we who believe in law and order had better pitch in and do our part to roll back the tide.

Oct. 30. E. M. McCandlish, 72, retired business man of Ellijay, dies in Atlanta. He was a veteran of World War I.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Myrtle Jarrett McCandlish; two sisters, Mrs. W. D. Evans and Miss Nannie McCandlish.

Mrs. Octa Lovingood Jarrett dies at her home. She was 90 years old. Survivors are: Miss Kittie Jarrett, Mrs. Myrtle McCandlish, Mrs. Ivory Arp; sons, N. H. Jarrett, Frank Jarrett.

Nov. 1. N. L. Tankersley, 91, dies at Ellijay. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Sallie Hyatt Tankersley; a son, Morris H. Tankersley; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was once listed among teachers of the County. He was once postmaster of Ellijay. He also served the County as superintendent of education. He was a merchant, later operating a hotel. He also had editorial experience with the local newspaper called the Ellijay Times.

Nov. 9. The Soil Conservation office is this week moving to the County Courthouse, vacating its former quarters in the Co-Op building on Dodge Street.

J. C. Owens, conservationist, heads this work in Gilmer. The S. C. S. office has five permanent workers, three watershed workers and four part time workers. A soil scientist was assigned to begin work with the office Nov. 27.

Nov. 18. A Civil Defense alert is held at Ellijay. Participating were eight Civil Defense units, 104 members and some eight nurses. Rehearsals like this could lead to life-saving on a large scale.

Nov. 19. Funeral for William McKinley Weaver is held at the First Baptist church, Augusta, Ga.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Orlena Timmons Weaver; a daughter, Mrs. Ann Koth; a sister, Mrs. J. M. Garrett, Rome.

Mr. Weaver was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Weaver of this County. He was once in business with his brother, J. L. Weaver, at Ellijay.

Nov. 28. A fire reportedly caused by a short circuit spreads over a latex room at the J & C Bedspread Company, damage being estimated at half a million dollars. Among losses were two expensive rug machines and finished goods.

Dec. 12. Funeral for Dr. Smith W. Ray is held in St. Petersburg, Fla. Dr. Ray was 72. While his people lived in Gilmer County, he attended medical school in Atlanta with several other men from this county. He was graduated from Atlanta Medical college in 1914, and practiced medicine in Dahlonega and Winder. A captain in World War I, Dr. Ray served with the U. S. Army Medical Department in Europe.

In 1919 Dr. Ray joined the staff of the Veterans Administration in Atlanta. He was transferred to St. Petersburg, where he worked with the Veterans Administration until his retirement in 1954.

Survivors include his wife, the former Blanche Cook; a daughter, Miss Bettie Ray; two brothers, Bruce Ray and Clark Ray, and a sister, Mrs. T. M. Mahan.

Dec. 26. Miss Ida Fendley dies. "Miss Ida" devoted 32 years of her life to teaching, 20 of these in the schools of Gilmer County. She is said to have assisted ambitious young individuals to advanced education.

In 1961 the L & N Railroad paid in taxes to Gilmer County $21,072.40, including $7,078.49 for the support of public schools. The railroad also maintains its tracks and roadbed and keeps them in good order.

1962

The new year starts with two inches of snow.

Jan. 16. Miss Christine McCutchen, 18-year-old student of the University of Georgia is killed by a passing truck on the university campus.

Miss McCutchen was once an esteemed young citizen of Ellijay.

Feb. 1. A new post office building is projected for Ellijay. The structure, to be located opposite Waters Brothers store on Dalton Street, will be the private property of Charles E. Waters and Mrs. Emma Lee Waters. The building has since been completed handsomely.

Ca. Feb. 2 to 8. W. S. Kelley and M. I. Teem Jr., both of Ellijay, are honored at a Cartersville Division assembly of the State Highway Department. Each receives a citation and a 25-year service pin. Division Engineer W. H. Jackson made the presentation.

Col. Teem since 1948 has been resident engineer of our highway program. The local office has 24 employees handling engineering of state highways in Gilmer, Fannin, Pickens, and parts of Murray, Cherokee and Dawson counties.

Mr. Teem is a native son. He was educated at Georgia Tech, attained the rank of Colonel in the U. S. Army.

Mr. Kelley, also a Gilmer native, as county maintenance patrolman, heads the crew responsible for the upkeep of state highways in our County.

Feb. 17-24. FFA Week is observed. The participating boys are efficiently taught and responsibly sponsored. They often prove themselves capable of describing their experiences in writing as well as farming along modern lines. Their goals, in pithy phrase, are

Learning to do,
Doing to learn,
Earning to live,
Living to serve.

Feb. 22. S. E. Hyatt of Canton is honored for his work among Boy Scouts and for humanitarian services in other fields. Mr. Hyatt is a son of Mrs. John L. Hyatt of Gilmer County.

Feb. 27. Ellijay Lions club votes $500 to the city of Ellijay toward the cost of erecting street signs throughout the city. Ellijay bore the cost of shipping and erecting the signs, which have since been distributed, and are being commended generally. They read as follows:

Barclay Drive, Boardtown Road, Cartersville Street, Cedar Street, Cemetery Drive, Church Street, Cobb Drive, College Avenue, Corbin Hill Road, Cox Creek Road, Crawford Street, Dalton Street, Dalton Street South, Delaware Street, Depot Street, Dodge Street, Dogwood Street, Gilmer Street, Gilmer Street South, Harper Road, Harper Street, Hipp Street, Holt Street, Huff Drive, Industrial Boulevard, Kell Street, Kincaid Avenue, Library Street, Logan Circle, Logan Street, Lucille Avenue, Main Street, Mountain Road, Mulberry Street, North Avenue, Oak Street, Old Blue Ridge Road, Parks Drive, Pump Springs Drive, River Street, Sand Street, Seminary Circle, Sky Line Drive, Spring Street, Tabor Street, Tabor Street East, Teem Street, Wikle Road.

Feb. 28. R. G. Hudson retires from carrying rural mail. He began this type of work at Ellijay in 1915. He also served as postmaster at Blue Ridge, where he was carrying mail at the time he retired.

March 10. Fred Cox Tabor, 77, dies at Cordele. Mr. Tabor, a native of Ellijay, was educated at Ellijay schools and Emory college at Oxford. Among survivors is a brother, Herbert Tabor, of Ellijay.

March 22. Bids for resurfacing of Ga. 52 (U. S. 76) highway between Ellijay and Chatsworth a distance of 24.81 miles are opened.

The construction firm of Ledbetter & Johnson of Rome won this competition and gave us a highly satisfactory road.

Davenport Hosiery mills workers recently voted that they do not want union representation, the vote on the question being 268 against and 48 for.

April 3. Jasper M. Parks, 82, former resident of Gilmer County, dies at Jacksonville, Florida. Among survivors is a brother, James L. Parks, of our county.

"A ladies runless seamless stocking," an original invention, is announced by Davenport Hosiery Mills, Ellijay. Jule Kaylor is credited with the development, which has been issued a patent.

April 10. The Gilmer County Board of Education names teachers and lets a contract to B. C. Thurston & Son, Gainesville, for eight additional rooms at Gilmer High school.

April 12. Funeral of William B. Pinson, 82, member of one of Gilmer's earliest white families, is conducted in Atlanta. A surviving sister, Mrs. Annie Gartrell, lives at Blue Ridge. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Pinson of Gilmer.

The death of Dr. Sam A. West, 95, Gilmer native, is announced as occurring at Dahlonega. Among survivors is Dr. Grover West, Roopville, and other relatives still living in Gilmer.

April 24. Gilmer places first in a Forestry Field Day program at Blairsville.

Winning participants were: Lloyd Ralston and Clay Stanley, who placed first in sawing; Lloyd also rated second in estimating saw timber volume from standing trees. Hubert Richards and Fred Weaver placed second in tree planting. Donald Watkins placed in selective marking. Tim Parker placed first in ocular estimation of height and diameter of trees. Roger Edmondson placed second in ocular estimation of their contents.

The Gilmer Chapter received first place, won a plaque and 25 silver dollars.

April 26. Improving of the surface of the Chatsworth Road begins. The work was promptly done, and done well. Ledbetter & Johnson of Rome, contracted to do the work, uses sufficient help, high quality equipment and materials and uptodate ideas and methods in road building.

We are happy to note that we are improving on the old worn custom of running a field full of candidates—15 maybe—for the same office, giving the office to the one (Democrat, Republican or what else) who "got the most votes." We are wisely eliminating candidates till we get to where a man will need a lot more than 20 percent of the votes to get into office.

That promises us men who are the choice of the people, not given us by wrangles. We are hopeful on this point. We really need assurance of getting men we need in office.

But we doubt the wisdom of heavy entrance fees for the privilege of running for public office. It makes too big a gamble of public service. A man should not be charged entrance fees greater than he is able to pay himself.

The women elected to office is Gilmer County are, by their type of service, making the chances for more women in public office more likely for the future.

Ca. April 26. Charlie W. Sullivan, towerman with the Gilmer Forestry unit of the Georgia Forestry commission, is honored for his long and faithful service as towerman on Talona mountain. It is Mr. Sullivan's duty to detect and report wild fires in our forests.

Rev. L. A. Edwards, pastor of the Gilmer Seventh-Day Adventist church, dies at Ellijay. He spent seven years of his life in Africa doing mission work.

May 3. A contract for the improvement of the Ellijay-Dahlonega road has already been let to Ballenger Paving Company, Hall Paving Company of Gainesville and C. W. Mathews, Marietta, in a joint bid.

May 17. Gilmer is said to include 280,960 acres, has 486 miles of public roads and 8,922 people, of whom 4,046 are registered voters.

May 26, 6 a. m. Rainbow Lake, near Pleasant Hill Baptist church, opens for fishing. The lake is approximately 80 acres in extent and is fed by three creeks of clear, cool water.

May 29. A drought is broken by two inches of rain. And there is still time to plant and raise many field and garden crops.

May 31. A comparison with the old days reveals that talent is where you find it, not where one might think it most likely to be found. Now that we have

transportation, the remotest child has a chance at a good start in learning at a long-term modern educational plant.

Our fathers, nearly 135 years ago, established Gilmer academy for the benefit of all our children. But for very obvious reasons they could not transport them. So the few who could and would get to the school on their own were all that benefited directly. The fact (purely an accident) of where one was born became supremely important. This was not what our fathers intended. But, practically, this is what resulted.

June 7. The first quarter business volume of Gilmer County totaled $2,157,071. One of the main and most often noted differences between our people today and 65 years ago, for instance, is in the amount of money the average man has. Trade in our stores and elsewhere used to be mainly barter. A well to do man might be observed riding to the store (more often walking) with eggs, poultry, corn, chestnuts, and the like, to trade in lieu of cash, which few commanded.

June 11. Funeral is held at Rock Creek for Mrs. Levia Buchanan of Cherry Log.

Survivors include: daughters, Mrs. Lola Wingard, Mrs. Pearl Swanson; three sons, Charlie Buchanan, Jess Buchanan, Gene Buchanan. Gene is active in the business and religious life of his community. He is postmaster at Cherry Log and is a member of the Gilmer County Board of Education.

June 12. Lee T. Woodring dies in Atlanta. Mr. Woodring was a faithful man in his religious life. He really enjoyed meeting with religious groups of his own church or with such groups in neighbor religious centers. Mr. Woodring definitely helped to make Newhope the power for a good conscience that it has become.

He is survived by his wife; three daughters, Mrs. Floyd Panter, Mrs. Kim Logan, Mrs. Walton Martin; a son, Alvin Woodring.

June 17. Funeral for Felix McKinnish is held at Liberty Baptist church. Mr. McKinnish was a popular county official, having served the County as tax receiver for 38 years.

June 19. Mrs. Janie Marie (Myrtle) Vick Davenport is appointed Tax Receiver to succeed Felix McKinnish, her uncle, who died June 15. A special election is set for July 17 to fill the office permanently. In the election, Mrs. Davenport was elected—the first female public official ever chosen to serve Gilmer.

June 26. The Ellijay Lions and Jaycees hear an address on the Carter's Dam project. Hon. Burton J. Bell, Technical Liaison officer, United States Army Division, speaks to the joint meeting.

June 27. Mrs. Elizabeth Weaver, wife of Henry Weaver of this county, age 87, dies in Atlanta. Survivors include: besides her husband, six sons, Truman, Herman, Leaman, Wayne, Herschel, Brinton; one daughter, Mrs. Clyde Howard; one brother, J. B. Chastain.

June 28. Bids are being received for construction of the Gilmer County High School Gymnasium.

July 2. Funeral services are held for Glenn ("Toby") Moore at Flat Creek Baptist church. Burial was in the Town Creek cemetery in Pickens county, the Odd Fellows being in charge of graveside services. Survivors include two sons, Preston Moore, Hoyt Moore, both of Florida; two brothers, Simon Moore and Ben Moore.

July 5. Rev. J. Frank Rollins is assigned as pastor of Watkins Memorial Methodist church. Mr. Rollins comes to Ellijay from Summerville.

Rev. Y. A. Bailey is reassigned to the pastorate of Dover's Chapel and Cochran Chapel Methodist charges.

Rev. Osa E. Patrick is also reassigned to the charge of Cartecay, Gates' Chapel and Nine Mile Methodist churches.

Fine progress is reported on highways passing through Ellijay. Ga. 5, one of them, is being widened. It will be otherwise improved by working southward from Cherry Log meeting house to Ellijay. The Jasper-Ellijay Road is being widened and primed and is later to be surfaced.

July 12. Ernest L. Partridge is announced as having been selected as vocational agricultural teacher of Gilmer County High school for the coming term.

July 17. An auction disposes of E. L. Weissinger Lumber Company at Ellijay—land, seven buildings, machinery, and equipment.

July 19-20. The Mountaintown Baptist association meets at churches, Pleasant Grove and the First Baptist of Ellijay. In the earlier years the meetings were held at one church, lasted several days and great crowds attended.

July 22. Last rites for Ben H. Jones are held at Flat Branch Baptist church.

July 26. The Chevrolet Company, dealing in automobiles, announces plans to close the Dover Chevrolet plant at Ellijay.

The third annual Appalachian Wagon Train celebration is announced as "a happy accident free affair," special thanks are accorded Capt. P. C. Peacock; troopers Esloon, Kirby, Rutland, and Gilmer County Deputy Sheriff Clarence Ray.

July 31. Mrs. C. H. Webb, 97 years old, widow of Henry Webb, dies at her home in East Ellijay.

Aug. 2. Construction of a new, modern apple grading and packing plant for Gilmer County begins. This advance has been achieved through the combined efforts and co-operation of Representative P. T. McCutchen, Senator C. E. Waters, Commissioner Harold Hefner, and the members of the North Georgia Apple Growers association.

Governor Vandiver has made available $125,000 to aid with the construction. The balance of $100,000 needed to complete the house is to be made available by State Commissioner of Agriculture Phil Campbell.

Aug. 6. Mrs. Lena Sellers dies suddenly at her home. Seventy years of age, she was the widow of J. W. Sellers. She is survived by sons, Joe and Robert; two brothers, Henry Schmale and Gus Schmale; one sister, Mrs. Emily Pinehardt.

Mrs. Sellers descended from a colony of Germans that settled in Gilmer during the early years of this century. She could speak and write German. The only family remaining here, that the author knows about, from the original group is Kowitz.

Aug. 9. Funeral of S. B. Green is conducted at St. Mark's Episcopal church, Dalton.

Mr. Green was for several years an esteemed citizen of Ellijay, and proved very efficient and helpful in establishing an improved and modernized telephone service. While a resident of Ellijay, he organized a Rotary club there.

Apple Storage House. Dedicated August 27, 1963, shared by Gilmer and Fannin Apple Growers.

Aug. 16. News from Atlanta tells of the decease of Mrs. Reba Allen Floyd there. Mrs. Floyd was a former citizen of Ellijay. She and her family were held in high esteem here.

Aug. 28. Following an overnight removal from its location on River Street, the Ellijay post office opens in a handsome new building near the north end of the business district and just off Dalton Street.

The new postal home was erected by Charles E. and Mrs. Emma Lee Waters and leased to the government for a period of ten years with the privilege of extending the lease.

All furnishings and equipment of the office are new and modern. Postmaster R. C. Stembridge states the office and carrier personnel used in the operation of this service is 14 persons, not counting the East Ellijay exchange, the Dalton-Ellijay contract routes and the Atlanta-Knoxville highway post office trucks that offer their facilities daily. Cash receipts at the Ellijay post office are approximately $40,000 annually.

Dedication of the new post office was held October 7, prominent speakers appearing on the program of the day.

Judging is completed at the Gilmer County Fair. Oakland is first among community clubs; Town Creek, second. The Gilmer High School FFA wins first award on school exhibits. In schools in general, Southwestern school rates first.

Sept. 2. Gilmer 4-H'ers appear on TV, centering their program about apples, with demonstrations on the care of trees. Regarding the fruit of such trees, the girls report on apple recipes. Other entertainment is also provided.

Sept. 6. The local paper is crowded with political materials. We need, along with knowledge of wrongdoers of the past, promises and pledges of right doing from those who wish to be elected by the people. We also need to study more closely the records of all candidates who offer themselves for public office.

Some patriotic group, well in advance of election day, should publish the records of all candidates.

Sept. 9. Dr. H. T. Feagan, 70, dies at Commerce. He started doing dental work at Ellijay about 1915, and continued until recent years.

Sept. 12. The election winners are U. S. Senator Herman Talmadge; for Governor of Georgia, Carl Sanders.

Sept. 27. The death of Bill Warlick at the local hospital is announced. Mr. Warlick was a retired L & N railroad freight clerk for many years. He was a native of Canton. He is survived by two brothers, W. C. and H. J. Warlick; and three sisters, Mrs. Ella Fowler, Miss Nelle Warlick, Mrs. T. S. Howell.

Oct. 16. Final rites are held for John J. (Jack) Withrow at Mountaintown Baptist church. Mr. Withrow was a Mason for 61 years.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Grady; six daughters, Mrs. T. W. Dover, Mrs. R. D. Weir, Miss Mary Withrow, Mrs. George W. Graham, Mrs. William E. Bailey, Mrs. George P. Walker; three sisters, Mrs. L. L. Kown, Mrs. Minnie Sharp, Mrs. Herschel Harper; one brother, T. C. Withrow.

Oct. 26. Groundbreaking ceremonies for a new apple packing house are held. Governor-elect Carl E. Sanders is principal speaker. Other state and county officials take part. The plant, located near the poultry processing plant on Industrial Boulevard, will be operated by the Georgia Mountain Apple Growers Association.

Oct. 28. Funeral for John Tucker III is conducted at upper Cherry Log church. Mr. Tucker died Oct. 24 near the age of 94. He was one of the Gilmer citizens having Cherokee Indian blood. His father was named John Tucker, who is remembered by many persons yet living. His grandfather was also named John, as mentioned in old records. The Tuckers were named for a white man named Ned Tucker. Their Indian name was Conseenee. Tucker brought up some Indian boys in his own home, and they too came to be called Tucker.

Nov. 6. B. C. Logan Sr. and Zell Miller are elected respectively representative and senator for Gilmer County.

Nov. 8. The Grand Jury for the October term of court makes particular presentments on public schools, citing needs of respective schools. This is fine. But wouldn't it be still finer to give student groups and individuals credit for co-operation where this has been given by the students? Students could do much to improve the grounds and approaches to some of our schools. We love a school for having been helpful to it.

Nov. 22. The U. S. Army District Engineer announces the award to Ledbetter, Inc., of Rome, of further excavation for the construction of the Carter Dam that is being built on the Coosawattee river about 70 miles north of Atlanta and 17 miles southwest of Ellijay. Recently much added interest has

been aroused by the discovery near the dam of the bones of "ancient Indians." The Atlanta Constitution of Nov. 4, 1963, carried an interesting account of this part of activities at the dam.

Nov. 25. Funeral of Morris H. Tankersley is held, with interment in the Ellijay cemetery.

Dec. 20. The J & C Bedspread Company is reported at this date to have "last week" celebrated a combined 25th anniversary celebration of its formation and a Christmas party for employees.

Joe McCutchen, president of the company, spoke to the group. One hundred fifty people now work for the J & C Company. During World War II almost 1,000 were employed, and at that time candlewick bedspreads were the principal item of production.

In fact the company was originally formed for the manufacture of handmade and machine-made bedspreads. But in 1940 it expanded into spinning and weaving, with the formation of J & C Cottons. This branch of the enterprise consisted of 7,000 spindles and 63 wide looms on which yarns were spun and woven for duck as well as for heirloom type and hobnail type bedspreads.

In order to concentrate fully on tufted products, J & C Cottons was liquidated in 1950. At that time J & C Carpet Company was formed. It was established for the manufacture of tufted rugs and carpets.

In November 1961 a fire, damage from which was finally estimated at a quarter million dollars, destroyed buildings and equipment. Following that, the manufacture of bedspreads was discontinued.

Effort was now concentrated on the manufacture of promotional room size rugs. Installation of additional carpet machinery, as well as a complete foaming operation, was completed. Jerome Schneider joined the company in 1961, becoming vice president in charge of sales. Tufted rug volume in 1962 was highest in the 25 year history of J & C.

Joe K. McCutchen Jr., on his graduation from Georgia Tech in 1962, joined the firm as assistant to the president. He, along with the McCutchens and Mr. Schneider, constitutes the official personnel of the company.

The J & C Company has shown a rare conscientiousness in its public relations both here and at Dalton. Here in Gilmer County they will definitely live in our future as well as in our present. A discussion of their generosity is given elsewhere in this volume.

Gilmer Jaycees plan a genuine Christmas for themselves by distributing gifts of cheer to 75 who might otherwise be overlooked or forgotten.

CHAPTER 18

The County Today

Salient Facts and Features

A number of the general facts about modern Gilmer are gleaned from a booklet written by the author late in 1927 for the Ellijay Chamber of Commerce. The booklet is now scarce.

Gilmer County, located in the extreme north central portion of Georgia, averages approximately 80 miles from Atlanta. Its northern limits extend within a few miles of both North Carolina and Tennessee. No changes in its boundaries have taken place for many years. The Blue Ridge crosses it in the north near the Fannin county line. The county is composed largely of the slopes of the Blue Ridge, prongs of that range, and their valleys—especially such as yield southward. Valleys opening north of the same ridge are narrow and short and mountainous. Cashes Valley, which is narrow and long, runs east and west, almost paralleling the line between Gilmer and Fannin counties.

The elevation varies from 1,312 feet at Ellijay (the county seat and natural center of the county), one of the lowest inhabited spots, to the extreme height of Big Bald mountain, 4,120 feet. The average of the whole county approximates 1,400 feet, comparing singularly in its average and extremes of elevation with the state of Vermont. The entire area is abundantly watered and drains mainly southward into the Coosawattee river. A small watershed drains northward and eventually into the Ohio river.

The county has about 281,600 acres of land and nearly 23,483 acres of this is federally owned. And 935 acres is urban and water, with the prospect of 3300 acres more when Carter dam impounds the Coosawattee river.

Ellijay, a little south of the geographical center of the County, is distant in miles from surrounding points and cities: Chatsworth, 25; Dalton, 39; Fort Mountain 18; Gainesville, 54; Jasper, 21; Blue Ridge, 16; Murphy (North Carolina), 41; Chattanooga (Tennessee), 72; Copper Hill (also Tennessee), 25; Atlanta, 82.

The climate of Gilmer is bracing and invigorating. It is free of malaria-carrying mosquitoes, and has abundant rainfall, which may be expected to run about 57 inches. This is above the state average, which is only 49.3 inches or thereabout. Mrs. J. L. Dover keeps official tab on Gilmer rainfall. The average annual temperature is 54 degrees. Winters are nearly all keen and energizing. Snow often falls on the mountain heights and when these are glazed with white ice they appear to be covered with snow. At times the snow invades the valleys. The winters of 1939-40 proved to be one of the coldest and snowiest known for a long period. Considerable snow fell during the winters of 1957-60. Our lofty mountains and valleys, during such winters, might easily be taken for a region 1,000 miles farther north. Snow is a part of the memory world of every Gilmer County child; so deeply has this been impressed upon the writer that, when he has spent the winter where snow was not a part of the winter landscape, even a stage snow has given him a profound nostalgia and involuntary tears.

Springtime presents many beauties of nature. Summer nights are especially cool and refreshing. Autumn is not so gnawingly cold as New England's, is more equable and pleasant than any other season. It also has a gorgeous display of color in its forest trees during this time. Water is clear, cold "freestone," with a

few fine mineral springs well recognized for their healthfulness. When men used to dig gold at White Path, they were sometimes in sight of the springs, near enough to drink out of them.

Gilmer post offices, 1962, four in number, are: Cherry Log, East Ellijay, Ellijay, Whitestone.

The population in 1930 was 7,344. By 1940 it was 8,995. It is now counted (1960): Ellijay, 1320; East Ellijay, 501; the County, including these two cities, 8,922. We believe a privately conducted count, in which enumerators are paid well and by the hour, might reveal more. The Negro population, always small, numbered in 1936 but a dozen, and is now but about half that number. The racial unity of Gilmer County is thus pronounced, all-American, English-speaking, vigorous, with proven capacity.

The County's assessed property valuation was in 1958 $3,502,068. Non-exempted valuation at the same time was $2,780,872. The tax rate is slightly lower outside Ellijay. But those of us who have tried supplying ourselves with water and other facilities find that the same facilities furnished by a municipality are one of the greatest bargains and treats available.

The highways of Gilmer traverse sections offering some of the finest scenery in the southern highlands. Seven mail routes radiate from Ellijay to strictly rural communities. There are additional post offices and mail routes served to points outside the County.

Ellijay, standing at a healthful elevation in a wide, beautiful and fertile valley that sweeps north through a break in the Blue Ridge, is the geographical as well as commercial center of Gilmer County. It is wisely and charmingly located. Its population, April 1, 1930, was 657. This number had increased by 1940 to 1489; in 10 years thus Ellijay had gained 127 per cent, and in 1950, still growing, had a population of 1527.

The city has dependable electric current, modern waterworks, paved streets, many attractive homes, a neat little park in the center of town, graded schools and a high school of first rank; Baptist, Methodist, Christian, Holiness, Jehovah's Witnesses religious groups; a stately-columned brick courthouse, commodious in its proportions; several hotels, a desirable motel, and a sound bank, established at the opening of 1959 in a new home. It maintains a flourishing weekly newspaper. Several lumber mills operate and turn out superior products. Ellijay has been described as being of a 'well groomed' appearance. It is by far the County's most populous community. East Ellijay is next in size.

Cherry Log is a well located and important village, and Whitestone is gradually expanding northward into Gilmer.

The growing season is 210 days. Principal crops are rye, corn, oats, potatoes (both kinds), peas, beans, hay, garden and truck crops of much diversity. Grass growing has much expanded during the last few years. Livestock and poultry are important. But the heavy raising of subsistence corn crops and more to sell are being replaced by other uses of the land, tree and grass growing being among these.

Gilmer County produces apples of many varieties of the finest color and flavor. The first commercial orchard, Mountainview, which won 25 state and national prizes, now is rivaled by a number of well developed areas devoted to this crop.

The home orchard has existed since Indian days. Numerous beginners not only in the cultivation of apples but also of peaches, grapes and berries are appearing each season.

In 1958 the County was reported in the Atlanta Constitution to have had, by a 1954 count, 29,217 bearing apple trees that produced 101,804 bushels of fruit. In a pamphlet issued by Georgia Extension Service September 1958 Gilmer is cited as Georgia's chief apple-growing county with 27 (later 30) commercial apple growers, with 27,444 (later added to) trees in their orchards.

Following is a list, from the office of the County Agent, of the growers.

Jack Aaron, O. S. Aaron, Luther Brookshire, Homer Cantrell, Leslie Cantrell, Manley Cantrell, Emory Farist, Edd Goble, William Garrett, E. T. Hudson, Howard Hyatt, Seth Hyatt, J. A. Lambert, Homer Mathis, Morris Parks, Frank Pettit, Thomas Penland, Hayward Reece, Kermit Reece, Charlie Sellers, Roy Smith, Joel Stembridge, Robert Stembridge, Clyde Tankersley, Vic Vandegriff, J. C. Waddell, Mrs. Charles Walters, Homer Weaver, Bill Wingate, J. B. Woody.

Supplied from every hand by adequate labor resources of native American labor, located at the very edge of the vast cotton fields of the Southeast, with a climate fairly free from winter freeze-ups and enervating heat waves of summer and offering prime opportunity for night operation for industries, backed by cordial public interest and co-operation, Gilmer County, with its transportation facilities and dependable sources of electric power already developed and forthcoming, promises an expansion reaching indefinitely into the future.

Gilmer has scenic streams and mountains, 260,000 or more acres that are timbered, peaches (the finest Elberta peaches the writer ever saw were growing in Boardtown district), melons (the best along gently flowing streams in well sunned valleys), plums, cherries, grapes (the muscadine grows wild), strawberries (so eager to grow are these that our earlier generations got along on wild ones), blueberries, which our people insist on calling huckleberries; the rabbit eye type from the Calloway farms at Hamilton, Georgia, will grow; blackberries, the finest of which are wild or from cultivated wild briers.

Still other fruits and berries, as fully demonstrated, will grow and produce. Counted in this group should be the quince. Some cotton, as elsewhere stated, grows in several districts; dairy products; fine honey; tobacco.

Gilmer has produced upward of two million pennyweight of gold; marble deposits; talc; kyanite has been found; iron has been mined; both red and white clays, the red having been, since earliest days, used in the manufacture of brick of firm, enduring texture. Its water is well distributed and to be still further demonstrated by harnessing the Coosawattee river.

The County has wild game—quail, doves, squirrels, rabbits, fish, the grouse still survives; deer could be found for all if they were hunted and killed by strictly honorable rules. We still hear of wild turkeys and a few bears. But the land owner who wants to conserve his game instead of killing it has but small encouragement. Foxes are still numerous enough to furnish a chase.

Gilmer County naturally sees increased possibilities in its climatic and tourist attractions as roads continue to improve. The beauty spots, "look offs," caves and other natural wonders should be marked and trails to them laid out.

Fort Hetzel and its adjacent stockade in East Ellijay, if restored, would be a prime attraction, and would give the community enormous wholesome publicity.

The Ellijay Town House, with our sketch to go by, could be restored to great advantage.

Other historic and unusual sites, such as the Home of Chief White Path, should be fully marked.

All schools, churches and other pubiic buildings should be clearly and efficiently marked.

SUMMER SCENE

This delightful prospect is on Little Mountaintown Creek.

Other scattered marks could well be placed:

At the site of old White Path and at its springs.

Site of Chief Walking Stick's Home.

Foot of Bushyhead Mountain.

In Ellijay, in honor of Martin Scalf. And another honoring Mr. and Mrs. Joe McCutchen.

A better approach to Flat Mountain from the South should be engineered and opened with a paved road. It would do plenty of publicizing.

More on Plant Life

The plant life of Gilmer County is interesting, abundant and significant in our economic life. About 80 per cent of farm acreage is in trees. Ordinary crops occupy but seven per cent of our land.

Its trees are especially valuable. Its timber stand contains poplar (tulip tree), chestnut (once yielding a greater quantity of edible, marketable nuts than the sparse population could gather), various oaks and a mountain tree called chestnut oak, once slaughtered for its bark for use in tanning leather. Its use in this respect has been supplanted by other processes of tanning hides.

Later dead chestnut wood was used for obtaining tannic acid, but such demand is slight now, especially since chestnut wood that is being cut since about

RAPIDS IN COOSAWATTEE RIVER

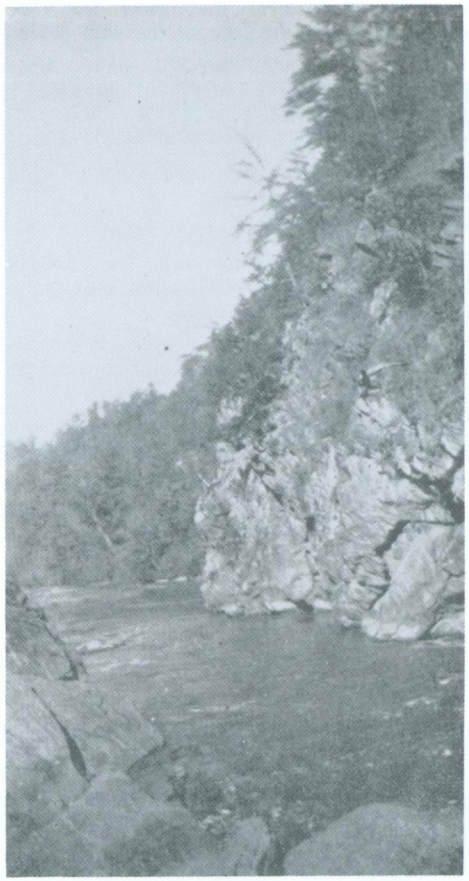
By 1968 this charming scene is to be deeply covered with water. Their beauty, 12 miles southwest of Ellijay, should in some way be memorialized.

The "Hog's Head," a great hump of rock on the Ridgeway (north) side of the river, has been widely observed and sometimes photographed. It is at the edge of the river, just below the rapids.

1925 has not been re-grown. Later still young poplar trees were marketed for paper making. This much reduced our finest future source for lumber, for altogether the poplar is our finest, stateliest tree. Pine and "mixed wood," thanks to Dr. Charles H. Herty and perhaps others, have supplanted the poplar for this use. Pines, white oaks, and the chestnut until blight came all grew to great size.

Pines of some kind are scattered fairly well in the County. The highest mountains are forested, but they have the largest proportion of deciduous trees; and even there pines frequently appear. While white, yellow and black pines occur, the turpentine-bearing, long-leaf variety is rare; in fact, for any attempt at the manufacture of turpentine so common to southern Georgia. Since the tree grows wild here, it seems to hold some such promise if planted in sufficient quantities.

Cedars are few and of little importance. Spruce, or hemlock trees, grow to impressive size and height. Hickory and beech are among our fine and important types. The maple is among those of beauty and usefulness. It furnished the pioneer with about all the pegs, or wooden nails, he used in making shoes. The linden, or lime, is not only a majestic timber tree but bears a flower much relished by honey bees. The linden can be successfully transplanted; and, if placed in suitable soil, it will grow rapidly. The buckeye, or horse chestnut, is found, usually in more mountainous areas. The ash and locust are esteemed for their appearance and wood. Ironwood is rare, and willows thrive in cool, damp places.



The "Hog's Head" is a core of rock with scant vegetation.

The northern sugar-bearing maple is not indigenous to our region. Nor is the picturesque white birch of the North woods. There is, however, a rougher barked tree with a wintergreen flavor that is called birch; also a tiny dwarf-tree wintergreen flavored plant that passes the winter with its leaves alive. It is the base of commercial wintergreen flavor, which we suppose is now manufactured synthetically. The pawpaw, with its sweetish, banana-flavored fruit, grows in open spaces, usually near streams where the soil is fertile. The trees are among our most beautiful.

It is with difficulty the fig is cultivated at all, and then in the most protected spots. The Indian was said to have had a peach which he cultivated but the fruit

is rarely seen any more. Plums, pears and prunes sometimes pull through the spring frosts. The folk name for the fruit of the wild passion flower is apricot.

Late spring frosts are a perennial threat to many crops such as cherry and peach that bloom early. Grapes do fairly well, especially good vines of the muscadine variety transplanted from a wild state. They withstand frost simply by blooming again. They should be set on sloping ground.

We say no more here about the apple. So great is its importance we have given it special attention in several places.

We have written about the appearance of sorghum seed in Gilmer County.

The sugar cane of commerce is unknown. The County is too cool for its cultivation. For the same reason, the cultivation of cotton is much restricted. Pecan culture has had but trifling attention.

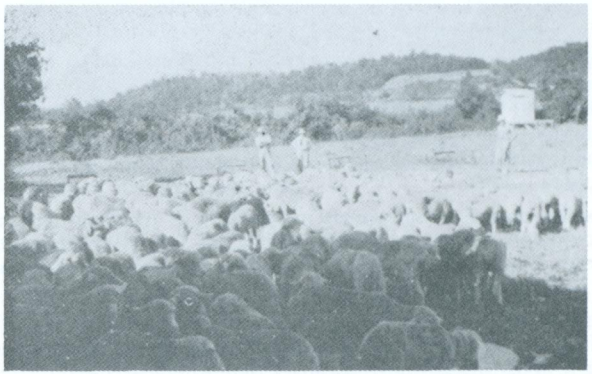
Butternuts, referred to locally as white walnuts, grow wild; the black walnut is found growing in such locations as tempt us to believe it is likewise wild. The filbert, to us, is a hazel nut.

Upland rice has been cultivated, as have tame chestnuts, which we have hopes will ultimately fill the vast void left by blighted wild chestnut trees.

With the advent of paper making from common scrub and other varieties of pine, Gilmer has been offered a highly expanded pulpwood market. A flavorsome resin is yielded by our sweetgum tree.

A Gilmer Hayfield

CORN



SHEEP

Symbol of an Important Industry

Of shrubs and flowering trees Gilmer has striking, important specimens. The tulip tree should be counted first among these. From some of these the world's most colorful hybrids have evolved. Take the laurel (folk name), or rhododendron. All the marvelous beauty it shows in the nurseries is the result of carefully conducted hybridization of our basic wild shrub, which is being hauled out irresponsibly. This is a real asset when it is left by our roadsides for the passerby to see. In nurseries the rhododendron is an aristocrat, among the fine, expensive shrubs. The ivy (more correctly, laurel) is one of the charms of the mountains, blooming ahead of the rhododendron.

Other shrubs bearing beautiful flowers—and sometimes leaves that add to their attractiveness—are locust (white and, occasionally, purple), white ash, azalea—the folk still call it honeysuckle—crabapple, dogwood, elder, sourwood, sarvis (shad bush), omitting many other plants and flowers that adorn Gilmer's landscape. The lovely redbud is found in a few places, and gets along well when transplanted more widely.

A spectacular charm of our woods in late June is the Stuartia, some people call it. It is definitely related to the Franklinia, or Lost Gordonia, reported by William Bartram from his observations along the Altamaha river more than 200 years ago. It could be the same shrub.

This lovely flower was reported in 1953 from Ridgeway district. It has also been found in Mountaintown and Boardtown districts. If transplanted, it will thrive only in a cool, shady, moist location rich with leaf mold.

Melons, while good if planted on wisely chosen soil, are little marketed.

Peanuts given reasonable care produce a satisfactory yield.

Hay could be grown much more than it has been.

Peas and beans do well; likewise many of the newer cover crops like vetch and crimson clover. The bean in the home garden or the trucker's field is still

This lovely flower was reported in 1953 from Ridgeway district. It has also been found in Mountaintown and Boardtown districts. If transplanted, it will thrive only in a cool, shady, moist location rich with leaf mold.

a prime favorite in spite of beetles. Okra and tomatoes flourish too. The coolest portions of the County yield good crops of white potatoes. Lower (and warmer) sections produce the white and the sweet potato both in abundance. Oats and rye used to be common crops. But, as we have shifted from the old type of livestock, such as mules, horses and cattle, to more cattle and winter grazing, these crops have declined. I have not seen a fine field of rye for a long while, though they were once common. Wheat, once grown and processed into flour inside the County, is a rare sight too.

Gilmer has plants once used as folk herb remedies and sometimes demanded in pharmacies and medicine factories. Gin seng (an export crop) grows wild on north slopes but is occasionally cultivated. Other, and medicinal, are mayapple, lady slipper, pink root, blood root, sarsaparilla, witch hazel. Some popular flavors are found in spearmint, heart leaf and wintergreen. The root of the common sassafras, esteemed for both its flavor and reputation as being medicinal. Pennyroyal and spicewood occur naturally. Catnip is cultivated, as are sage and other herb flavorings. On the north side of some of the highest mountains, where the soil is rich, a wild white onion, considered edible, grows. Some of our finest white onions of commerce could have evolved from this ramp, as it is called.

Some of the less conspicuous flowers are the closed gentian, the summer rose gentian, bloodroot, anemone, wild pink rose, sunflowers, coneflowers, daisies, fennels. Variations, exquisitely beautiful, of the summer gentian are found in a few districts. We have the trumpet vine common to Georgia. The yellow jasmine, as a wild flower, comes no nearer than the south side of Stone mountain. But we believe it could be transplanted in some locations here.

Wild lilies grace the woodlands only in a scattered way. Horsemint, red cardinal, parnassia are rare. While the closed gentian (blue in color), glorifies the banks of rough rivulets, the rose type is one of the splendors of summer, lasting into months. One of the chief charms of our fields and gardens and fallow grounds is the many-colored morning glory. The curious carnivorous pitcher plant common to middle and south Georgia has been observed in the County.

Animals

A partial list of the wild animals here since the white man's earliest occupation would include the bear, now seldom found except in forest reserves. It has been many years since there was an authentic report of the presence with us of the small lion known as a painter or panther. There is abundant proof, however, that they were once here. Old men, still living in the recollection of plenty of us, saw these predatory beasts and helped exterminate them.

Not even the opossum has been able to sustain his numbers. The raccoon was long ago driven into the roughest, deepest woodlands. Few are left, and it may take a snow to find one of these. The skunk withstands hunters fairly well and is caught only because a dog came across him accidentally. Men who buy and handle furs say we also have a civet cat, closely related to the common skunk whose mephitic odor has hurt his reputation. The muskrat lives along streams and seems to cut down the farmer's corn as much for pastime as for anything else. He is crafty around traps. The mink is scarce and has been for many years. We hear no more of the otter but he was here and being occasionally trapped toward the close of the last century.

The building of large lakes has given the beaver a new lease on life. There is a numerous colony in Lake Sidney Lanier. The predatory wild cat still survives, but he is seldom found outside the roughest, wildest mountain fastness. The weasel is a blood sucker and destructive to poultry. For that reason he is classed (in folk tongue) as a "varment."

The Virginia deer, now rare except in stocked forest reserves, is in fair abundance. But the killing of does and hunting out of season can so reduce this supply of animals as to make hunting less and less attractive. One of the drawbacks to deer and bird hunting is that more and more people have better and better guns and go upon the land of others, in all too many cases, without permission. If a man went out to kill a few birds of his own, this practice endangers him on his own premises. Besides, we have humane people who like to have game birds and animals around without killing any of them at all, and in this habit he should have co-operation of others.

During the 1890's and the first years of this century the red fox began to appear here to live in competition with the grey. Modern mountaineers have always chased the fox and wildcat. But it is harder to hunt the wildcat. There are no longer any timber wolves to hunt, though within fairly recent years evidence of their survival has come to light.

Squirrels are the arboreal grey, the handsome little striped burrowing chipmunk and the flying species. The only other flying mammal is the bat, one of our best destroyers or harmful insects. The common cotton-tail rabbit is still with us. The brown wood mouse, clean and shapely, will build his own home in 30 yards of your own house without asking for either food or shelter. Modern poisons reduce rats and mice, which are seldom seen away from human habitations. The marmot is to us a groundhog, and is celebrated in a clever, comical folk song and the little ones are sometimes taken for pets. A stump-tailed rodent of our fields and hedges likes to tunnel runways in the dry winter grass. Called a field rat, he is related to the guinea pig. The jumping or kangaroo, mouse is an immigrant apparently of the last generation or so.

There is still a variety of serpent: the green snake of summer bushes, the blacksnake, the garter, the king snake, the russety water moccasin, a ground snake or two, the glass snake (said, really, to be a lizard that glides along without feet). If it does any good, it should be spared. For it is utterly harmless, having no disposition to bite.

A large native snake of a faded deep russet hue, ugly and venemous in appearance, is called a bullsnake; perhaps because he blows his breath like a threatening, ill tempered bull, if any one comes close to him. He is said to be a ratter and is appreciated for this. He ferrets mole tunnels. He is non-poisonous.

The copperhead and the rattlesnake are poisonous. But they are seldom seen, especially a rattler, which is rare even in mountain land reserves. The black and white "chicken snake" is really a king snake, and might well be spared. For he kills copperheads. The snapping turtle is here but not always in the mud. He will venture abroad if that is a better chance for a meal. He may bury himself in a damp run of small ducks and chickens and seize them as they go by. Later he may hide at the bottom of a lake and catch waterfowl by rising and snapping them and dragging them down. There is a soft shell variety of turtle found in the Coosawattee. I believe both it and the snapper are considered edible. Box tortoises are of dry-land and water types, the latter of musky odor, that makes a nuisance of itself by biting at the youthful fisherman's bait.

Various newts and lizards exist, some living in the ground, others about water, especially the newt that goes by the name of "spring lizard." He is esteemed for fish bait. But he has perpetuated, is his humble way, some of the peculiarities of the giant dinosaur of the early world. The hellbender is a giant of the newt family. He has followed streams up and up from the Ohio Valley. He is locally known as a gallinipper or waterdog. He is seldom if ever found south of the Blue Ridge. He has been experimented with to explore his possibilities as a food source, and those that know say he tastes somewhat fishy.

The greenish and larger type which develops a red throat are lizards found. The latter kind has a serpent characteristic of licking out its tongue. The nine-stripe lizard seems liveliest when the sun is hottest. The chameleon-related lizard is very rarely seen. The stinging scorpion, fortunately for us, is small.

Birds

So many of our birds are summer transients, while other species remain here through the winter, it would be difficult to separate them. It has never been thoroughly done.

Herons do not seem to nest. Large blue ones, smaller blue and the snowy variety used to follow the streams. The small blue was referred to as a shyte poke. The white was a target for gunners.

Once there were large forked tailed hawks in the valleys. It was the largest of valley hawks. This distinction between valley and mountain species is necessary because of the great variety of elevation in the County. Birds, for instance, that live on the highest mountains may not be seen in the valleys, two or three thousand feet lower, at all.

Time may have extinguished other species than the wild pigeon, once by far the most abundant of all birds. It does not seem to have nested in the County but to have visited after the breeding season for the fall mast—mostly acorns. Chestnuts do not appear to have been a part of the bird's diet. There was a roost of these birds at the head of Turkey Creek and another in territory now probably in Bucktown district. Many persons like Joe Newberry and Fonzy Williams, alive a few years ago, remembered them well. Mr. Newberry helped kill a great many. At one time it looked as if nothing could ever reduce their numbers. They broke trees, swarmed all over logs—the ground even—and could be killed wih a stick.

The raven was once fairly common, but it is extinct or practically so. The cuckoo has always been more or less scarce. Its folk name is raincrow because its call is supposed to precede a rain. The large wild hawk, already mentioned, fed on squirrels and hares, erroneously called rabbits. This bird was not identical with the large mountain hawk of the great mountain areas, which much resembles an eagle. Another hawk of the past was called filly hawk. The predatory chicken hawk is sometimes denominated the blue-tail.

Wild turkeys once went in droves feeding through the woods. They have been saved from extinction by forest preserves. The grouse, finest-fleshed of game birds, is rare. Some of us can recall the days when its beating was a familiar sound along rural roads and trails. Buzzards have declined in numbers. Crows, with their keen wits, have answered changing conditions with adaptation winter and summer, and have survived well. I have come to believe the crow does a lot more good than harm.

Kildees have always been around. The large fish hawk of the past had much of the size and spirit of the bald eagle. He is sometimes designated as an osprey. He rivaled in size the forked-tail, largest of the other hawks. The fish hawk, or eagle, had a custom of standing still high above a stream or other body of water and winnowing the air with his wings while observing for fish. This act called for the keenest attention for it might be followed by a spectacular dive.

The bluebird, about the middle of the 1890s, suffered during prolonged freezes and short food till their numbers experienced a depletion from which they have never recovered. The migratory bullbat needs protection as much as does the cuckoo, for both are reduced. William Ellington said he observed in Oklahoma in 1907 birds once plentiful in Gilmer County.

The yellowhammer, prolific and hardy, is here the year around, as are the hairy and downy woodpeckers. The large crested woodpecker of the deep woods is (as it has always been) scarce, shy and solitary. The red-headed type, one of the most useful of birds, seems to grow scarcer as time passes. It is easily lured and killed, a fact that may account for its scarcity. The kingfisher, swifts and martins (purple probably) are with us at least a part of the year.

The raven disappeared long ago. William Ellington says the raven ate only recently killed flesh, lived in holes in trees. After meat was a day or so old the raven left it to the buzzards. The woodcock, or snipe, is still here, It probably never was plentiful. Its feeding habits are one of its prime difficulties. It requires

a swamp to range in, and this must not be too cold. It is the somewhat dull protective color of a quail. But the long straight bill is noticeably different. Like a frightened quail, it seeks safety in short, rather than sustained flight.

The slate colored junco, or snowbird, likes the mountains during the summer. But it comes to the valleys about the middle of November and at other times if threatened with hunger. We have several species of sparrow, the indigo bunting (in summer), thrushes (including the sweet-singing hermit), the brown thrasher, the dove, the cardinal, or redbird. The joree, or towhee, is common about hedges. The redwinged blackbird is so rare it barely deserves listing. Our recurrent cold waves of spring sometimes starve and freeze beautiful birds just arrived from winter climates a result due more to the benumbing of the insects upon which they feed rather than upon the severity of the cold, it is believed.

Among the most beautiful of Gilmer birds are the ruby-throated humming bird (that appears as soon as enough flowers for his feeding needs appear) and a gorgeous type of summer tanager, the male of which is scarlet. The female is drab, somewhat olive. The noisy jay is sometimes here all winter but much of the time he is not in evidence. He occasionally winters in a pine forest. The catbird likes the green orchards of summer. But the mocking bird is scarce. But we have heard him during cold weather and believe he spends the winter right where he made his summer home. We have seen the mocker only at Ellijay, Cherry Log and on Chatsworth road. The tits are common along with the nuthatch and titmouse, including the chickadee. But some of these are not as numerous as in days gone by.

A generation or two ago great coveys of field larks, blackbirds (probably grackles of the crow blackbird family) and quail gladdened the ears and eyes of hunters. But indiscriminate slaughter has reduced us shamefully. A few other cheeping multitudes made shooting targets also, whether they had any food value or not. Owls and whippoorwills, in spite of their late-in-the-day hours are almost exterminated. Less than two generations ago the great living overhead streams of bullbats and whippoorwills, dipping here and there to feed as they migrated to climates farther south, were an impressive sight that we see no more. The big hoot owl has been crowded out of his prey by the modern hen house; but he's still around, as is the screech owl.

I am not ornithologist enough to speak with much finality on birds. But I have procured, and am appending, the observations of an expert. These observations deal with the summer birds of Gilmer County, and were gleaned from a booklet called "Notes on the Southern Birds of Northern Georgia," by Arthur H. Howell. The booklet is marked:
From 'The Auk,' Vol. 26, No. 2, April, 1909.

The observations of Mr. Howell were made mainly about Ellijay and on Rich Mountain, east of Cherry Log railroad station. Mr. Howell made his notes in the summer of 1908. He spent July 7 and 8 on Rich Mountain, which is 4,081 feet high. His object was to study both valley and mountain types. Some of the birds listed were observed in adjoining or nearby areas but close enough to Gilmer to assure us they are likely to have lived in the County itself. Birds actually observed in Gilmer are marked (*). Some thirty-five birds are year round dwellers.

Green Heron
Bobwhite*
Wild turkey*
Turkey vulture*
Screech owl
Cuckoos*
Southern hairy woodpecker*
Woodcock
Ruffed grouse*
Mourning dove
Red-tailed hawk
Great horned owl
Belted kingfisher
Downy woodpecker*
Pileated woodpecker
Red-headed woodpecker*

Flicker*
Nighthawk*
Ruby-throated hummingbird*
Phoebe
Green-crested flycatcher*
Ravens (still on Brasstown Bald)
American goldfinch*
Chipping sparrow*
Carolina junco (snowbird)*
Towhee*
Rose-breasted grosbeak
Black-throated bunting*
Summer tanager*
Red-eyed vireo*
Mountain solitary vireo*
Black--and--white warbler*
Yellow warbler
Blackburnian warbler*
Pine warbler
Ovenbird*
Kentucky warbler*
Whippoorwill
Kingblrd*
Wood pewee*
American crow
Grasshopper sparrow*
Bachman sparrow
Indigo bunting*
Yellow-throated vireo*
Golden-winged warbler
Black-throated green warbler*
Maryland yellow--throat*
Mockingbird*
Bewick wren*
Carolina chickadee
Bluebird*
Catbird*
White-breasted nuthatch*
Wilson thrush
Red-bellied woodpecker*
Chimney swift*
Crested flycatcher
Blue jay
Baltimore oriole
Field sparrow*
Cardinal*
Scarlet tanager*
White-eyed vireo*
Cairns warbler*
Louisiana water-thrush*
Yellow--breasted chat*
Brown thrasher*
Tufted titmouse*
Wood thrush*
Hooded warbler
Carolina wren*
Blue-grey gnatcatcher*
Carolinian robin

The early abundance of fish—suckers, catfish, two kinds of bass, eels, chubs, perches—fell off rapidly with the coming of the white man's poison, sawdust, seines, dynamite, and traps. Our best native fish is the cat. The white suckers go in schools. In cold weather fishermen often hook them with unbaited hooks. They are large, handsome fish but very bony eating. There was once a large fish of the sucker family that seems to have been exterminated. It was known as the redhorse.

Protection of fish and the restocking of streams with rainbow trout and other species of this important resource that are adapted to our waters have been well begun and deserve high commendation.

Evaluating the Future

Whatever the splendor of the present, it grew out of yesterday. And however glorious the future, it will evolve from what is. The wise man believes in Tomorrow, and sets his goal accordingly. The past history of Gilmer County justifies us in the belief we are progressing, and that the days to come will be increasingly better and happier if we maintain character and the capacity to be happy.

Statistics tell about quantity only. They do not reveal quality. That is why we might say that, while our population is smaller than what it has been some counts of the past, it lives much better and enjoys enormously greater advantages.

We give a few years, with co-existent population, to illustrate our fluctuations in the human element.

1840	2,536	1900	10,198
1850	8,440	1910	9,237
1860	6,724	1920	8,406
1870	6,644	1930	7,344
1880	8,253	1940	8,995
1890	9,074	1950	9,963
		1960	8,992

For the sake of contrast—among other reasons—let us elaborate on facts gathered from the 1840 census, first, of course, ever taken of the County. Still keep in mind that its area was a third larger than it is now; bnt the Indians were gone.

The whole population (with 92 slaves included) was 2,536. In ten years this has risen to 8,440—an increase of more than 400 per cent. Of these people, 2,178 were born outside of Georgia, eight in foreign countries. Slaves now numbered 192, freemen, 5.

Neat (real) cattle in those days of primitive grazing were 8,320; dairy products (very cheaply valued) were estimated at $4,900. Ten years later, strangely, neat cattle had dropped to 5,561.

Sheep (much harassed by wolves and other varmints) numbered 692. Ten years later these had spurted, like the human element, to 5,062.

Swine (subsisting almost entirely, in common woods, upon wild mast) numbered 1,980. By 1850, however, these had climbed enormously and the woods were filling with wild hogs, their number being 18,949.

Poultry, even then (in spite of owls, hawks, eagles and sundry mammalian pests) had a valuation of $3,150.

Market gardens produced a yield of $3,406 value.

"Home made" or "family" goods (an independent and individual form of manufacture then much practiced) were worth $7,619. These also rose with the population, and amounted ten years later to $19,997.

Beeswax and honey in 1850 were valued at $3,641.

Manufactures, the same year, were $3,400.

"Working oxen" numbered 565.

Rye and wheat were nip and tuck—over 3,000 bushels of each. Rye in 1840 had been but 510 bushels.

In 1840 farmers numbered 782 in old Gilmer. Tobacco production was 5,648 pounds, cotton, 10,584 pounds; corn, 97,569 bushels.

Only one store (doubtless at Ellijay) was reported. Persons engaged in commerce were two; those in manufacture and trade, 11; in the learned professions and engineers, three.

There was one tannery, employing two hands, that produced 500 each of sole and upper leather for shoes—capital invested, $1,000. Capital invested in mills (grist, rarely wheat), $40,000, with 18 men in employment.

Wooden houses built were 12; men employed in their construction, 25; value of completed structures, $12,000; total invested in such housing, $42,050.

In 1850 there were 577 farms, with 23,900 acres improved and a valuation of $508,356; corn produced, 214,193 bushels; flax, 1,973 pounds; rice, 5,805 pounds; wool, 8,609 pounds, and tobacco, 14,752 pounds; sweet potatoes, 20,097 bushels; cheese, 1,190 pounds.

From 1910 to 1920 there was a 9 per cent decrease in the population of the county. For the next decade it was 12.6 per cent. There was a rapid influx after

the Indians left. This kept up through the 1840's. By 1850 the County was about saturated. But it was still much larger, all its original territory intact, than it is now. Even before the Civil War immigration had turned to emigration and the population was falling. The war itself and the distressing times that succeeded it caused further loss. Yield of territory to Dawson, Pickens, and Fannin Counties accounts for much of 1860 losses. From 1870 to 1880 there was a 26 per cent increase. With the coming of a railroad and the prospects of a faster and greater future development, the population picked up. The late 1880's marked a conspicuous climb also. This continued till a few years beyond the opening of the 20th century. Then political and social strife, bad roads, inferior schools and the call of distant opportunity reduced us further. But with the County's present alertness along lines of permanent progress, there is little misgiving as to sufficient population and reasonable opportunity for the future.

Our County is sometimes reported as having 439 square miles; and farms that numbered, in 1954, 968, with an average of 116 acres. Highways running through it are U. S. 76 and Ga. 5, 52, 108, 156, 282.

We offer population specimen years for two census counts, 1950 being the last census to be taken by militia districts, so we are told.

	1930	1950
Alto	111	59
Ball Ground	444	367
Boardtown	404	314
Bucktown	141	114
Cartecay	671	623
Cherry Log	388	810
Coosawattee	252	242
Diamond	288	134
Ellijay	2360	4735
Leaches	347	242
Mountaintown	570	521
Ridgeway	156	229
Tails Creek	419	326
Tickanetley	336	498
Town Creek	457	749

While our population may not be larger, for instance, than it was in 1855, it is more concentrated. There is more capital wealth, and vastly more inherited public and private improvements.The people have changed much. During the middle 1840s there was a concentration of people at White Path. This was the most important community in old original Gilmer.

But after the discovery of gold in California and the decline of the County's own gold yield, Gilmer's people scattered to other points of Gilmer and places more distant, some going as far as California during that State's gold rush. Ellijay was 80 years in building up to what White Path once was. But Ellijay had a much more sure and substantial development. As late as 1875 Ellijay had but 175 inhabitants. East Ellijay did not exist.

The growth, importance and progress of these and a few other communities, along with such improvements as roads, bridges, available power, telephones, the telegraph, public health, the combination of greater intelligence with piety in our churches, education and Federal co-operation in public improvements, the application of the motor, gasoline and electrical, constitute much of the advance of the modern county.

Other important changes have occured. The older generation that migrated into this section during the first few years of our existence have died out here or moved on before they had lived their alloted span and been succeeded by generations of people of similar origin but of increasing diversity of names and complexity of living habits and manner of thought.

Our attitude toward progressive living and having all the good things of life has sprinted ahead of our moral calibre and the capacity to use wisely many of those blessings. The pioneer customs of making articles of dress from home-grown wool and leather and attempting to raise all the grains, fruits, and vegetables we consume on our own land have greatly declined. More and more we depend on the big factories, the huge food processing places and the mechanized farm operations. Mass production has come to town and rural areas.

The primitive log cabin has given away to frame, brick and stone houses of much larger size, better design and greater convenience and comfort. Occasionally we see carry-overs of the pioneer cabin, but even these are of much improved appearance, and fit charmingly into a rustic background. The better types of houses of course are most numerous in the towns and on the better farms and transportation routes.

Pioneer-type log school and meeting houses have yielded to more comfortable and artistic structures. Many of our leaders in the present-day life of our County have traveled in America and, to some extent, in foreign lands. Their contacts and observations aroused in them a spirit for improvement that keeps creditable pace with the onward sweep of general progress.

It is really suprising how well game and fish held out in the face of slaughter at the hands of a population trained after pioneer custom rather than modern methods of conservation. As late as the approach of the 1890s Cal Searcey, who operated a grocery on Buckhorn Hill, in a single autumn bought 40 buck hams at 10 cents a pound. And he bought bear meat at the same price. This sparse picking could only be obtained from the Cowpen Mountain region, and was being gathered, in the main, for shipment to distant markets.

Efforts to curb indiscriminate slaughter of game animals and fish began years ago, of course. But we need more training and teaching on conservation. The Federal Goverment's hand in this has been a very worthy part.

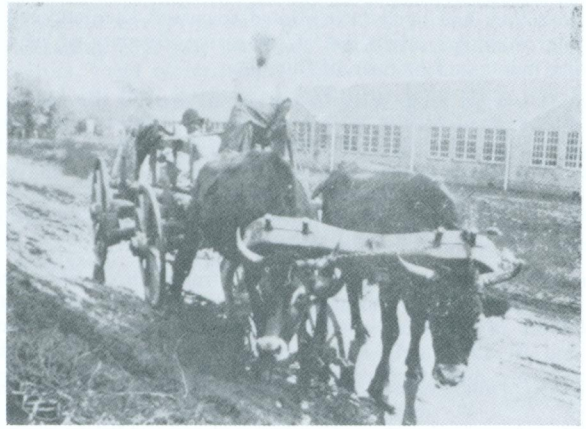
The gold mines of the earlier days are dormant.

The oxcart is not only gone from our fast improving roads: we don't even know where such a vehicle is or where to go to see one as a museum piece. The same is almost as true for the horse and buggy. Automobiles, beginning 55 years ago with Dr. N. C. Goss' "Sears Auto Buggy," have gradually improved in quality and design, and are so plentiful bus lines have a struggle to make their lines pay.

Speed on the highways, as compared with the early days, is astounding. We can hardly tune ourselves to the swift mechanical changes about us. Going to the west coast and back is easier and sooner over than a trip to Atlanta used to be. This spirit of progress has spread to fields, orchards, gardens and the conducting of our home affairs.

Modern tractors are taking the place of the mules, horses and oxen that seemed so lasting a part of the picture of the childhood that many of us knew. All told, we are ceasing to offer the image of the picturesque mountaineer apart in the eddies of the stream of progress. We are eager to be in the main current of events. We may need more fluidity, but not a merging with the mob.

STEERS 'N WAGON



This outfit, with Floyd Roberts driving, is one of the last of the ox teams. Even Floyd rides in a car now.

We are far from assured we can float along downstream without asking where we are going and if we are going to be any more happily situated when we get there. The conventional mold is fast investing us. The world "do move," the mountain world along with the universal tide.

Whereas the people of former days raised much corn, wheat, potatoes, meat and poultry, had their orchards for the family needs, sold forest products, the newer folk truck-garden and establish apple orchards, presumably preferring to buy nearly all their flour already baked into loaves and other bakery products. They go in large part to stores, with their ready refrigeration, for their meats. They still raise poultry extensively and exploit timber resources.

"Gilmer County has gone on record as being the first county in the state to appropriate money for education in forestry. The grand jury recommended that $500 per year be paid to the Gilmer County TPO."

This quote is from the Forestry-Geological Review, July 1934, which magazine also credits the County with steps and prospects in fire protection (two lookout towers, a system of telephone lines, patrol points, new roads and trails into hitherto inaccessible areas).

Much more in the way of maintaining native trees and the planting of shrubs, vines and small fruits about rural and suburban homes could be accomplished. There is still so much uninhabited land, Gilmer people will find need to guard their roadsides or these will be stripped and raped of nearly all their indigenous charm such as laurel, rhododendron, azaleas, dogwood, crabapple—to mention but a few of the more conspicuous. Evergreens will be dug up recklessly and ruthlessly by commercial greed, without, except in the rarest cases, any consultation of the land owners. This is in violation of the law; and, unless discouraged, will eventually do an indefinite hurt to the County. Look along the roadsides near any large Georgia community and see if you see attractive wild flowers and shrubs. They used to be there. But they have been stripped away by passersby.

The love of beauty, along with utility, a sure sign of deepening of civilization and the ability to express it, is happily growing in Gilmer people. Let us encourage and support it.

These folk will probably prefer for a long time to come to occupy many of the smaller home places consisting of a house site and garden space. Somebody must till the smaller farms and the larger occasional areas that would give returns on an investment in farm machines. The County is learning its possibilities for grazing cattle and other livestock through the year.

Tourist, summer home, colony and club locations are among future prospects if we respect private property enough to cause those who are here only part of the year to speak well of us to their friends that are thinking of investing with us.

Ellijay and vicinity have already proved themselves excellent as to a location to manufacture on a large scale furniture as well as cotton and woolen type cloth It is lucky and wise to prepare an apple storage plant. In addition it could do well to investigate the possibilities of fruit and vegetable packing. Clothing manufacturers should be investigated as prospects for branch plants. The Co-op for farmers and the cannery for us all are fine ideas already at work. The idea of finishing oak lumber into oak flooring is another gain that should be counted.

We believe our whole region has maturity enough not to stoop to picayunish arresting and fining of "outsiders" for trifling infractions of traffic and other local rules. A friendly explanation can make still more friends.

The steady seeping away of talented young native men and women is a profoundly regrettable fact. For our democratic spirit and our human element, after all, must be reckoned as leading all assets and resources. Genius for plumbing our possibilities and establishing new and improved industries is needed at home. Unless, perchance, more of these able young people are willing to pioneer in helping to gear the machinery for a greater, more abundant future, we shall continue to lose them.

The methods and equipment of the new schools are conspicuously better, more commendable. I saw the caboose of the train of now discarded method and custom go out of sight down a dark horizon. In fact, before I was 10 years old I was already helping to discard them. We were a rather motley throng, and anybody that gained any recognition had to rise from the ranks. There seemed to be no royal roads to anything. We assiduously squeezed some fun out of our situation. There was much waste of labor and life, a burden of fatalism, and plenty that was tragedy undiluted.

I clearly recall blabbing. But in my day in school blabbing was reserved for special periods only. But it was considered a privilege. I heard the broad, crude humor of the old recitation—speech, to us. We were about all brought up, like little Pip, by hand. The first readers I ever saw or read in were McGuffey's. Sanford's arithmetics were also present. I learned to read from a Blueback speller. And my first inclinations to express myself in writing were scribbled down with a slate and pencil. And over such days and procedure, I cherish no particular regrets. The old days make interesting reading but they were tough living.

All schools, these days, when organized or rehoused, are put in buildings constructed on much more modern plans. Teaching methods are becoming more sensible and along the lines of child psychology and uptodate methods generally. Our greatest mistake is in not employing more of our best educated and most progressive native teachers. We are poor fishermen in that we let too many of the best fish get out of the net or go through it.

But, while the old schools perhaps did not have enough orginized athletics, we might do better to have even less than what we have now. We need to inspire

a love of industry above every form of sport. For after all we are born, not to play, but to achieve and manifest greatness of spirit in our work. We need more of the Germanic glorification of accomplishment. Whatever comes, we must grow up and get things done. We cannot discover anything finer than that a happy work is really play that brings the safest, soundest joy. This need not preclude proud athletic records.

We are not realizing fully the worth of our fine delicious, cold water that gushes out in abundance all over the County. Even rural homes are coming into their own by installing water systems.

We face the problem of continually selling (an inferior term but often used nowadays) Gilmer County to its most desirable element of people.

Business houses are tearing away ancient ill-lighted frame wooden houses that succeeded the first log cabins in Ellijay and elsewhere and replacing these with modern-type, better lighted houses, often of brick.

The old rustic appearance of ruralites, with their brown and blue jeans and lindsey, homemade shoes and aloof, shy manners, is a thing that had become rare by the close of the past century. No community any longer stands much apart from the others. People in "the country" and "towns" are so much alike picturesqueness, by way of contrast, will never exist again.

The radio, the TV, the telephone, electric power, the camera with its variety and diverse uses, the automobile, the airplane, not to mention the power for good and evil of the different types of atom bombs, are all harbingers of a new order and another day.

We have so mingled already with the universal throng that only a supreme and surpassingly intelligent effort will keep us from losing much of the quaintness and poetry of dress and custom communities of northwestern Europe have so beautifully and profitably retained. We are in danger of becoming a mere rubber stamp of convention.

We look with expectant eyes toward the future with its intensive, specialized agriculture, motorized and winged travel, exacting physical, mental and emotional regimen and electrified homes and living conditions.

But something remains. After experimenting a hundred years we have discovered that only a small per cent of us can make more than a bare living by farming no matter what we raise. Gardening and special truck raising has proved attractive to many tillers of the soil. Sometimes it looked liked the tiller of the soil had something as definite as pulpwood. Then the market would have a sinking spell.

But, with all our handicaps, we are not to despair. The people of Massachusetts, a state settled 200 years before us, can show us that farming and a great diversity of industry can go on living together to mutual advantage. But this life must be crowned, as they have done and we must increasingly do, with specialization in regard to our human resources: with culture and training for the young that will succeed over every handicap.

Events since 1932 saw an early emergence from the depression period and new strides of progress. While we have left behind the lurid illusions of pioneer days regarding sudden and fantastic mineral wealth, we have not resigned entirely the possibility that even greater amounts of gold, kyanite and copper may be in reserve. More gold, for instance, may be found in new locations or deeper in the ground where it has already been mined.

George Chancey, who probably had the keenest, best trained eye in the County for picking copper ore from rocks and roes, told the writer that copper, for instance, actually exists in outcrops on Flat mountain. He also stated another vein was exposed during excavations of the Chatsworth highway across the Cohutta mountains.

On the whole we have learned our vital lessons the way the Forty-niners migrating to California did. Having recovered from their original gold fever either by fortunate finds or the healing effects of time, they began to study the climate, soil, scenery, forests, minerals other than gold—not to mention oil—and found them immeasurably more vauable than all the spectacular finds of gold they ever made or hoped to discover.

With the finding of oil apparently cut as a future prospect, it seems that our chances for wealth lie in the direction of honest industry, thrift, and personal development.

In 1935 we reported as a county 66 stores. During the summer of 1946 businesses were being opened so fast that statistics for any one year could afford but a reasonably accurate idea of what to expect next year. The places listed as stores included eating places, general food stores, apparel, automotive, furniture, household appliances and equipment, radio, hardware, lumber, building, drug, and other stores and filling stations.

REA electric service was reported, 1946, as either extended and established or being run into Tails Creek, Mountaintown, Boardtown, Cherry Log, Cartecay, Town Creek, Coosawattee, Diamond, and Bucktown; also communities, Roy, Scrougetown, Dyke, Talona. "Building new lines continually" was a terse comment on the development.

At the close of 1932 the highway north and east (the old Ellijay-Blairsville mail route) by White Path, Blue Ridge, was but partially done. It has recently (1962) been improved. The road west to Chatsworth was but well on its way to being excavated all the way through. Long since paved, it, too, has but recently been re--done into the best condition in its history. In a number of places this road has surpassing scenery.

The co-operation of the Federal Government with Ellijay and the rest of the County is mentioned in discussing the individual instances where this has occurred.

The J & C Bedspread Company began operations at Ellijay on Aug. 1, 1937. The company manufactured chenille, punch and handmade candlewick products. This industry first occupied a building that formerly housed the community high school, and was owned and operated by Joe McCutchen and Christine McCutchen, his wife.

Among later expansions was the addition of a thread mill to manufacture the thread used in the J & C enterprises. Local capital is said to have been invested in this expansion. Approximately 1,000 persons were once employed by this firm. The thread mill long operated on a 24-hour schedule seven days a week.

A weave plant for the manufacture of foundation cloth for bedspreads has long since been completed and put into production.

East Ellijay has tried the manufacture of chenille goods.

A community house (used for meetings of the Woman's Club and some other assemblies, mostly sponsored by the club) was built in the early 1930s. Of rustic design, it blends pleasantly with its natural surroundings. It serves all modern uses, including parties.

A new Baptist church, built of brick, was completed near the opening of the year 1933. The tasteful and artistic plot, formerly containing a fountain, occupying

OLD COMBINED ELLIJAY HIGH AND ELEMENTARY GRADES SCHOOL

Erected in 1936. It is used now as an elementary school only. But is superior auditorium is still used for general assemblies of student groups of all grades, as well as meetings of a public character in general.

the center of the public square, not only attracts travelers but serves as a sort of landmark and point of direction for traffic. From this plot the old courthouse was razed in 1934.

In 1935 a new county courthouse was remodeled from the old brick Hyatt hotel, one of the largest buildings in the County. It was not only adapted as a public building, but its new location, off at the western edge of the public square, is much better than the old location, which had been occupied by two courthouses since 1834. The courthouse needs had outgrown the ancient plot in size. But it is clearly recognized that the present building needs replacing from the foundation up.

Ellijay elementary school, built of brick, was erected in 1936. It was designed to accomodate all the County's high school students of that date also. It cost $47,500 and has 16 classrooms exclusive of library, office and auditorium. The library of that date had accumulated 2,000 volumes.

Facilities included a home economics department, equipped in a modern manner; a workshop operated in conjunction with agricultural and vocational training. This shop has valuable machinery as a part of its equipment. The school, formerly known as Gilmer County High, was later officially designated Ellijay High School. It enrolled, during its 1945-46 term, for example, many more than 1,000 students.

Still other modern facilities, giving added excellence to the community's educational advantages, are a new gymnasium, dedicated Nov. 14, 1939, and an outdoor pool, 45 by 100 feet, which also serves the public.

A new high school building, designated again Gilmer County High School, a mile south of Ellijay, opened in September 1956. It assumes responsibility for high school grades only. All equipment that could be removed to the new building has been taken there and installed for the more efficient operation of the high school in its new and improved location.

The population of Ellijay has increased, within the period under consideration, about 300 per cent—from 600 to near 1800. The community still grows and steadily spreads over a wider area, including suburban building sites along highways leading away from the city. During the summer of 1946 the building of business houses was unusually large. East Ellijay is also making marked progress in growth and improvement as recorded from time to time in this volume.

We of this area have for some years already been making the stranger feel more welcome among us. Several such facilities have been begun, and usually such spots are being made better. Our co-operation can help them sustain and elevate their standards.

The streets of Ellijay have been graded and paved. Storm and sanitary sewers have been laid. Joe McCutchen and his wife boosted several phases of our progress in the fall of 1944. A $30,000 bond issue (voted in 1945 and opposed by but a single vote), combined with the gift funds, gave a total of about $50,000 available for street improvement alone.

The need for universal library service has been met in part by scattered school facilities and a main library, designed primarily of course for students. The WPA sponsored a library in the courthouse at Ellijay for a while, its services being free to the public. The County is understood to be supplied with library service at every school. And this facility is responsibly supplemented now by a bookmobile to schools and the general reader.

A ROADSIDE PARK IN UPPER ELLIJAY DISTRICT

The rise in the rural population of the County has been brisk where road improvements have been marked, but not always then. For, since people have set in to moving onto roadsides, land for homesites must be available and at a reasonable price. Cherry Log district has been fortunate in several of the factors needed for growth and improvement. A few other districts have made telling strides without growing much.

In addition to electric services and more miles of better roads, Gilmer's people of the more rural areas have come to share in a more effective extension service. The work of their farm agents has become increasingly heavy and complicated in the last 10 to 15 years. His work includes any of the problems of a man in the strictly rural or suburban sections, from laying off grounds to building houses and meeting epidemics.

His work now includes much more assistance to truck growers, poultry men, and livestock producers.

Between six and six and a half million broilers were hatched off in the County in 1958. Every militia district has poultry houses. The county has more than 700,000 laying hens.

The farm agent is Lloyd Smith. Mrs. Alice G. Davis keeps the office at 48 Dodge Street. Special TVA Agent J. C. Mahaffey works with Gilmer and two other counties.

A soil and forest conservation plan, embracing 44 different activities, is well organized and established. Though the forest conservation is located in Blue Ridge, it operates efficiently in Gilmer County.

Within the last few years an expansion of Ellijay's water supply became necessary. The gravity flow system, established about 1932, had become inadequate on account of the growth of the city. The tank for this system still stood on the hill west of the heart of Ellijay. A supplementary water supply came from a well operated by an automatic electric pump.

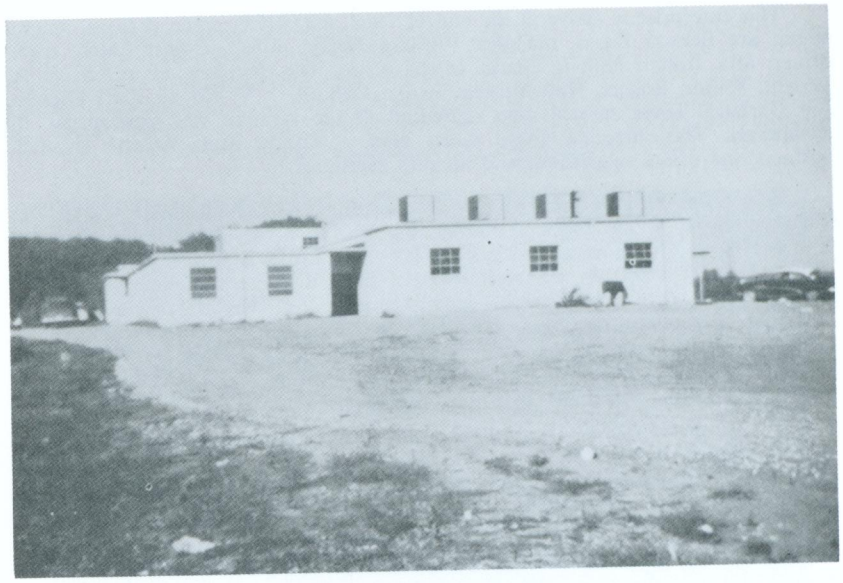
On Aug. 30, 1946, an issue of serial of water revenue anticipation certificates, to the amount of $25,000, was validated. Funds derived were to be used to pipe still more water from Hensley springs.

A Lions club, formed at Ellijay during this period, has sponsored a number of worthy community projects, one of these being a community cannery. In 1945 the club won the Elkon trophy for outstanding public service. It thus won first place among such clubs of the state.

Still another advance was the establishment at Ellijay of the Gilmer County Growers Co-operative, designed mainly for the cold storage of apples and potatoes. The nine charter stockholders were W. G. Wingate, J. S. Hudson, E. T. Hudson, Sam Penland, Jack Penland, Grady Wimpey, Stembridge Brothers. The building was equipped with modern machinery and was electrically operated. A service station—also co-operatively owned—supplemented activities on the yard.

This excellent beginning of a good enterprise did not prove permanent. The building was remodeled for other uses. But we are on our way to another building well adapted to similar uses down on Industrial boulevard, Ellijay.

"The Farmer's Market," county owned, opened in March 1935. We have discussed it already, mentioning the office of the County Agent as being there. His assistant is also there. But at one time this enterprise embraced some Danish ideas of liberal co-operation. Farmers deposited, for sale, farm products of any kind and in any quantity except livestock and poultry. Co-operative supplying of seed and fertilizer, has been retained. There were at first special sale days.



POULTRY PROCESSING PLANT

This facility supplements effectively the already well established poultry raising business of the County.

Adjacent was the community cannery, under the supervision of the vocational-agricultural teachers of the Ellijay High school. All buildings were pronounced substantial and of good appearance at the time. The beginning of this development, if one wishes to start with the transfer of land to the storage house group, took place March 31, 1936. The site was procured from Mrs. Laura K. Hamby.

The Farmers Market (or co-op) may not have had any direct business connection with the group handling the storage facility. But this move toward closer co-operation cannot have failed to impress the farmers that is was their turn, on a county-wide front, to act in their own behalf. This they did, it is reliably reported, on land furnished by the earlier co-operative group in exchange for excavating and filling in done by the county.

April 17, 1936, the storage plant was reported in the course of construction. It was completed October 9, 1937. Having operated under group control until early in 1942, the structure was transferred to the ownership of W. G. Wingate, whose family still owns it. The building has been readapted to other uses, being until recent years a cafe. It burned later still.

Work started on the development known as the Co-op November 12, 1937. and was completed the 21st of the next February. Messrs. O'Dell and Gunnells then moved into their quarters provided for them as County Agents in the new building. Fertilizer, seed and other farming needs began to be supplied from the center.

This enterprise is active at the end of 1962, employing seven persons, among whom are Benson Davis, manager; Willard Neely, miller; Ernest Clark, truck driver; Mrs. Robert Hill, in charge of the office. The directors are seven: F. A. Wright, Wilson Rogers, Hub Burnett, Ernest Debord, J. V. Rowes, Carl Henson, Joe Garland. These several men represent all the farmers who appropriate its advantages. This directing group meets once a month, hears reports on their business and offers suggestions and handles decisions.

It was not until December 31, 1959, that the Co-op's house and grounds were fully conveyed to the farmers through the office of the commissioner of roads and revenues. The market pays a sales tax. To patrons it pays an annual rebate, which is deducted from the sum total of his patronage for each year. It has enlarged and expanded its services several times since it began operations.

Highway construction east of Ellijay, on a project which was a continuation of Henry Grady highway, was launched at Ellijay in 1937. The road, long since paved and recently improved, approximately follows an old road marked out to Dahlonega in 1834. It connects Ellijay with Dawsonville and Gainesville.

Our prospects for the years to come loom promisingly before us. But we are not to confuse size with quality. Our many-colored dome of hope will fall to ruin and chaos if we trust men who seek public ruin for their own profit. The MORAL problem today is a greater threat to us than is any nation. The same problem is as perilous as the atom bombs.

The pyramids of Egypt have stood so long because they were too big to destroy and they stood on secure foundations.

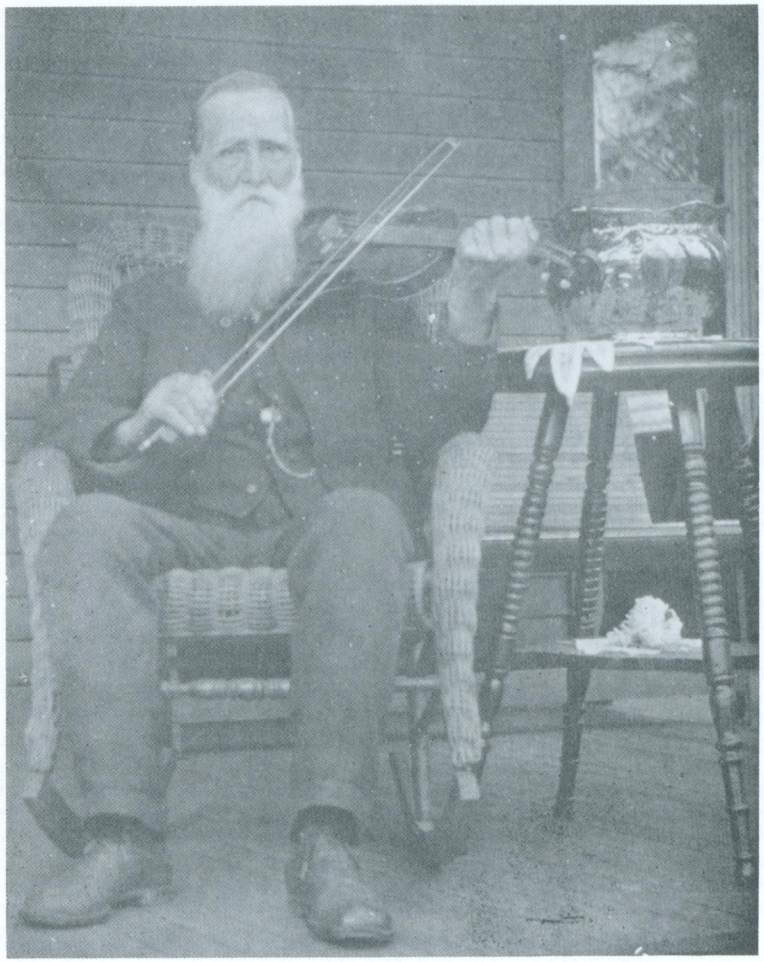
We still rejoice in a climate very nearly if not absolutely (from the scientific point of view) first-class; our population, energized by this invigorating environment, is capable. This they have proved. We have variety and excellence in yield of soil. We see our water power great and growing. The County is near nine-tenths forested, and it is but logical that we should expect continuous returns from that source.

Gains made in roads, schools, churches and elsewhere must be clinched and enlarged. The pressure of a new and more enlightened generation, with its ambition and more artistic tastes, will demand advances and push boldly ahead toward them.

We can do no better than to keep on honoring energy, a growing intelligence, and the spirit of helpfulness, love of justice and the practice of it; and lastly, but by no means trailing any of these, the aspirations of man's spirit.

Objectives such as these will lead a people up and gradually into growing light and progress—the radiance of a really magnificent future. The future must suppress graft and oppression and give us co-operation, with better health, personal development, profit-sharing industry, happiness and prosperity for all. The success of all must be the goal of each of us.

He Developed Pioneers in Music



IRA A. SISSON

He ministered to a love of harmony among his early neighbors.

CHAPTER 19

The Artistic

Gilmer people, of course, share in the innate love of beauty and the worship of perfection characteristic of the races from which they sprang. This inheritance and hunger for its expression may have once spent itself in a fine manual touch to a powder horn, a wooden cupboard, a hickory axe handle, a staghorn-handled butcher knife, a patchwork bedcover, a hand-loom blanket design, the cooking of a meal, fashioning a pair of shoes, finishing a rifle or a copper "still" or teaching a child the myriad ways of nature and the practical arts of plant culture, and household crafts. The building of sturdy human character was one of the most common and, even for moderns, difficult of arts.

For what moderns call real art these early people had scant understanding or respect. Puritanic religious background and eagerness to get on solely in material things, together with the suspicion that art interfered with this, cheated many a child of a very fine phase of the culture of his day.

We first had a few fiddles, accordions, a scattered miscellaney of the ancient dulcimer, and novelties and experiments in making music. Many of these tools of musical expression were made at home. Ira Sisson, among the foremost of our musical folk, made his first fiddle out of a gourd. Pianos and performing upon them were confined almost exclusively to Ellijay. Outside, such instruments would be found only in exceptionally privileged homes. The rural folk had a few "cottage" organs.

Hymn singing was done well by a scattered few gifted persons who had little incentive to go far in their musical ambitions. The people of the rural districts (and when you got half a mile from town you were "out in the country") were so scattered and roads and weather so often handicapping most singing was done in homes. Public assemblies were too few to keep people either trained or inspired. The singing of old "ballats," love and lonesome songs and folk music generally was once well done by men like Dock Sanford of Bucktown, one of whose original song poems is included. The remotest, most isolated sections of the County have retained this ancient and wholesome art the longest. Sanford is here included because of the extraordinary fact that, though he could neither read nor write, he yet composed creditable songs and tunes for them. Today one must go a long way out of town to hear good sol fa singing. We have a shallow way of dismissing it as out of date and hurrying to be like other people without asking whether their way is any better than our own. Sol fa music, as a matter of fact, is much loftier and more inspiring and worshipful to me than the little ditties that came out seasonally and, without admitting it, follow the airs of the "Little Brown Jug" type of song: Except that I don't recall any of them as good as "Little Brown Jug."

The finer hymns, the cream of the Christian ages, and their enjoyment have been very limited in Gilmer County. The older Colonies have enjoyed and appreciated them much more.

Nor does it seem we care enough for our folk music to save it from extinction. Yet men of the highest intelligence and social standing—Cecil Sharp of England, for instance—have searched these southern highlands for the words and music of these folk songs. Sharp has done a monumental work in preserving them, and considers his discoveries a golden find well worth recording, for future generations. The Oxford Press, London, published his two volumes in 1932.

JACK ELLINGTON, left, and ED BENNETT

Horace Kephart of Bryson City, North Carolina, published some meritorious things along the same line. The University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, has also issued a volume on spirituals of the southern highlands and their buckwheat notes. Berea college, in Kentucky, and some institutions of learning of western North Carolina, especially at Boone, have had a worthy share in preserving and circulating folklore.

Drawing, even under a teacher, was for a long time either frowned upon or considered practically a waste of time. A few persons with sympathy and taste nurtured it in exceptional individuals. A few people noticed the promise in drawing and painting of youths like Ed Bennett and Jack Ellington. Both, with encouragement and direction, might have become successful artists. Aptitudes of their type have seldom been encouraged to the point of inspiration.

Credit and honor should be accorded a few individuals. Mrs. Will Shippen, who died in 1911, was gifted and developed in art. Miss Charme Shippen was a graduate of Antioch college. On July 24, 1931, she became instructor at the Harley school of Rochester, New York. In college she specialized in costume designing, but she was active also in dramatics. Mrs. J. P. (Truman) Cobb, who studied drawing in Cinncinnati and Chicago, left works of art in the way of pictures and a wideley enjoyed mural in Ellijay.

Mrs. E. T. Hudson, in her paintings, shows happy contrasts, rich color combinations and blendings that delight the lover of art. She is also able in musical expression and writes verse of merit.

An old recognized axiom that the ability of an artist is measured by the depth of his mind holds true in Gilmer as elsewhere. This, along with thoroughgoing practical quality, is illustrated in the life of Mrs. Margaret Hurst, daughter of Rev. J. T. McHan. For a while she specialized in retouching and tinting pictures, working in a number of leading Atlanta photographic studios. When she was last in touch with local friends, she was giving all her time to painting pictures.

During recent years our young people have learned to play. They have learned a greater diversity of games. In fact, we occasionally see some who play on after they have reached the time of life for a mature role.

The higher type of mountaineer, however, like his Teutonic kinsmen of northern Europe, takes life and his work pretty seriously. The topography of his section, except in cultivated bottoms, does not offer many ballgrounds or ample opportunity for a number of other sports and games of an outdoor nature, but would be ideal for golf, a game neglected till about 20 years ago. Players have developed special games—basketball, volleyball, jumping, running, hurling. Baseball, as will be seen from special items, developed early in the history of the game itself. Football has a foremost place.

It may be justly said that too many of us are content to make an art out of play. Instead of a few specializations, with attendant strain and excess, we need a program of universal play, even for those who do manual labor for a living. Every person should learn to play for diversion and recreation. Anything that nurtures health, physical improvement, teamwork and stamina must of course be accounted good, and fostered.

And that is not to recede from our position that we need the German worship of work, pride in efficiency and accomplishment if we purpose to get along faster and pile up for the generations to come a richer heritage of art and culture along with material betterment. For permanent success, there is no substitute for substantial and persistent work.

Gilmer County has never produced a sculptor of note nor done worthwhile things in acting, the highest paid of professions. We can, therefore consider worthy of mention a very few of the arts only.

Oratory, except in schools fostered by churches, has been sadly neglected. After the loss of the Ellijay Seminary, oratory became a step-child in the public school system till it was virtually forced upon it by the necessity of schools to include this as a part of a complete program. While it has been but slightly cultivated, occasional teachers like M. C. Briant taught and developed it even in rural schools. It is rare preacher or lawyer whose public speaking rises to the rank of art. And it may be safely said that a man in such occupations that require public speaking lacks the instincts and the capacities of real art if he takes no care to better and polish his address. In the present generation, girls are moving ahead in public speaking.

An ocassional singer, with gifts, gets a vision and rises above mediocrity. Harley Harper is one of these. We need vocal teachers who give individual instruction. With all its defects, about the most significant public meeting held in Gilmer County is its semi-annual music fest. It is now about fifty years old. When it emerges from its cocoon and asserts a free spirit and begins to sing any song that is good, whether it is "religious" or not, it will get somewhere and attract much greater attention. It should be employed to perpetuate folk music, sol fa singing and the true culture of the hills. That is good, whether it is "religious" or not, it will get somewhere and attract music and the true culture of the hills. It should use, if it desires to mix religious songs with its program, hymns of a high order only.

When the years are paid out, with their irrevocable panorama, perhaps the wit, the philosopher, the poet, the dreamer, the man who in his day was of small account in the eyes of his neighbor will prove our greatest citizen. Socrates, to his neighbor, was just another man with queer ideas—some of them foolish and dangerous. Some such quaint and lovable character may rise to immortality in a novel or some other literary form of the soil. But Gilmer will never be great here or elsewhere except by being its honest self. It will never rise to the heights of splendor by slavishly aping outsiders and despising its own land, its own people, their customs and culture. It is in honesty and sincerity that it will be blest.

The County needs an aggregation of beauty and historical significance. A room in a school or community building could be profitably devoted to relics of primitive man, native stones, ores, minerals, woods, leaves, fruits and flowers. Some well mounted birds and animals should be included. Pictures, in natural colors, of extinct or very rare types might be used. Every exhibit should be labeled by an expert. There should be tools, implements and household appliances of the past contrasted with things of modern make. Farm and garden products might be shown side by side with objects of beauty—carvings, woven fabrics, paintings, photographs (which should include beautiful scenic spots of the County), sculpture, manuscripts in which the community had reason to take pride; also mementoes and portraits, for information and inspiration, of those deserving such honor.

Any meritorious object, provided it reminds us that however great our future it will always be rooted in the past however humble that may be—or if it inspires—should lend its presence.

Musical instruments, one of the truest tokens of culture, should have room, along with songs our fathers and mothers loved; also plenty of films depicting the natural beauty and human interest and meaning, with added products, of extraordinary quality, from field, forest, pasture and industry. Even objects like milk, butter, melons, fruits and vegetables, should be there and replaced from time to time by a caretaker.

To avoid irretrievable loss, the sooner such steps are taken the wiser.

In literary art and journalism Gilmer, on account of the small equipment necessary and the compulsory nature of the first steps in order to write letters and legal papers and through the publishing of newspapers, together with the private manner in which writing could be conducted, has come nearer excelling in higher skills. Horace M. Ellington showed talent in both prose and poetry. He had an insinuating humor, broad, often, but seldom barbed. Unfortunately he took slight interest in preserving what he had created, so that it can be preserved only if found in old newspaper files. In this manner I have collected a good many poems. Of these, it was no easy task to select the best. But the one here given illustrates his more quiet, typically philosophic mood.

Contentment

Under a tree supine I lay
And swung in a hammock at close of day.
The tree was an apple wide and tall,
A grape vine clung to a nearby wall.
I rested well from a day's work done,
And watched the clouds at the set of sun.
My soul was soothed with a vast content
And gratitude for the blessings sent.
The air was balmy, the sky so blue;
Out in the garden the green corn grew.
A song bird perched on a swaying limb
And softly warbled its evening hymn.
The good spouse sat on the porch and smiled
At the lisping prattle of a little child—
While sweet through the evening shadows fell
The silvery tones of a distant bell.
Though each of the seasons has come with its care,
It has found me at work with a song and a prayer,
Swaying my little sphere—its king—
Summer and autumn, winter and spring.

That home is hallowed with joys and tears
And the price of weary labor and years.
Now in the dusk of a day well spent
I swing at ease with a soul content.

Mr. Ellington's love of nature is expressed in:

Paradise

I want to live in a great wide heaven
With the charm of shady trees
And flowers and brooks and singing birds
And the blue sky over these;
And over all the smile of God
In the sunshine and the breeze.

The father of Horace M. Ellington, William Ellington, had a knack for writing, and composed passable poetry when he was ninety years old. Frank Ellington, a son of H. M. Ellington, was an able editor of a trade journal in New York.

In 1932—April 30— Bill Shippen was reporter for the Washington (D. C.) Star, and no doubt was acquitting himself well.

Ernest Parker, formerly of Bucktown, has evinced capacity in prose, poetry and drawing. He has done some helpful research pertaining to the history of Bucktown, the farthest east and most remote (as well as most mountainous and sparsely settled) districts of the County. His findings, in substance, are appended. We have also included one of his poems, with its genuine tang of the soil.

My Hound Dog

Far from the clamor of the town,
I found a dawg, a hunting hound—
His owner claimed the finest dog
That ever hopped upon a log.
I took him out to have a race,
He sniffed about at a lively pace;
He treed a buzzard in the air—
He'd stand and bark and growl and rear.
That dawg, he acted mighty quare,
I found him trying to catch a hare.
He would not put a possum up
Much better than a sucking pup.
All he would run was just a hare,
and maybe a buzzard in the air.
He's always around to get his meals.
Out hunting he is at my heels.
He finally caught that dreadful mange,
And then, I thought, doomed for a change;
He'd lay way out in the tater patch
And with his paw would scratch and scratch
Destined no more these hills to roam,
Fated, he seemed, for his long, long home:
But, through the worst, he hung around,
And still I have my hunting hound.

Historian, Poet

ERNEST PARKER

That Ernest Parker is capable of the deeper tones of poetry appears in the selection that follows.

Close of a Perfect Day

Once alone I stood on a mountain high
As the sun, the golden heart of the west,
Smote with brilliant hues the twilight sky—
How I drank it in with zest!
In the enchanting depths of valleys I saw
Poor homes grow glamorous, gay;
The poorest seemed cozy in the investing sheen
At the close of a perfect day.
Colorful spots both far and near
Were fading from the gorgeous scene
As twilight began softly to creep
Over an olive sky serene.
Far below, as the scene grew grey,
Came the faint and subdued sound
As some pursued quarry came to bay
Before the old blue and speckled hound.
There rose the faint tinkle of mingled bells

As the cows shambled down the lane—
It all resounded through that wistful world
As the light began to wane.

On April 5, 1951, he philosophizes.

Try Smiling

When you feel yourself unhappy
And the sky is dark and drear;
When your mind is blank and empty,
And you feel a kind of fear,
Try smiling.
When your friends seem to forget you
And the clouds are low and grey;
When your labor is a burden
And you stumble on your way,
Try smiling.
When there's nothing seems to suit you,
And your temper's hard to hold;
And your mood's annoying others,
And your attitude is cold,
Try smiling.
When you meet your friends and neighbors,
Let the frowns be far away;
Meet them with a hearty greeting
As you travel on your way—
And keep on smiling.

We might add that Mr. Parker took long lessons in writing at the bedside of a sick mother. There, too, he learned much of his brave and wholesome attitude toward life.

Dock Sanford had an ability which, if directed through educated channels, would have proved rare. After he had offered to swap a horse to Joe McClure, a neighbor, for a yoke of oxen and his offer had been refused (Joe preferring, later, to trade his oxen for an old gray mare), Sanford joked McClure in this song poem. Joe's mare proved a dud. "Josie" is Mr. McClure's wife. The poem is good when one remembers that Dock Sanford could neither read nor write and was able to create a tune and fit it to the words.

The Old Gray Mare

To Joseph and Josie—
They live over there:
They ought to have plenty
For they own a gray mare.
But she walked so one-sided
She couldn't stay in the gears,
Makes Joseph remember
The big pided steers.
He puts her in the stable
To save her from abuse—
He thinks so much of her
That he pulls off her shoes
And lays them away.
But they won't stay there long;
When he thinks they're needed,
He puts them back on.

It seems strange that Gilmer County, 350 miles inland, should produce a man with the knack of J. B. Ralston for sea phrases. He may have started a landlubber, but by 1908, when this selection was written, he had acquired a deftness and facility Joseph Conrad might have read with admiration. It has the salt and tang of the sea and the genuine flavor of a calling which has never been surpassed for the cleverness of its phrases.

The Start of the Voyage

The great fleet is to depart from Hampton Roads, Virginia, for the Pacific station today. Every one is astir at an early hour. A beautiful morning. Admiral Evan's battleships look prouder, finer and more wonderful than ever, their white sides, spars and colored-top sides fresh and clean like the coats of great steeds ready for the race. . . . .

At an early hour water craft, laden with many fond admirers and spectators of the scene, begin to fill the roads and circle round among the warships. At eight o'clock the dressing lines are trimmed up to the mast heads and every ship is uniformly and beautifully decorated from stem to stern and from truck to keel. Shortly after, the U. S. S. Dolphin, with a large number of Senators and Representatives on board, drops anchor at a good point of observation. A few minutes later, the Mayflower is seen standing up the bay. It flies the President's flag. At 8:45 the entire fleet mans the rails and a salute of 21 guns is fired.

At present, no one is doing much prose writing in the County. C. R. Allen, in his day, wrote both prose and poetry of merit, serving even in his student days as editor in chief of the "Mercerian", student literary magazine of Mercer University. I offer a selection from his prose, which might be denominated.

A Call to Civic Righteousness

The election is coming soon. Are you ready to vote? Or, is your vote for sale, and are you simply waiting for the highest bidder? If so, allow me to appeal to you in the name of all that is right not to be led by a drink of whiskey or any other consideration, as to that matter, to the polls as sheep to the slaughter. Be men. Vote when and where and how you please. Vote for the men whom you believe to be the best qualified for the several offices, regardless of what any man or set of men may say or do. Stoop not to satisfy the groveling desires of any politician, but support the best fitted candidate, permitting the whim of no man to affect your decisions. Soar above the petty differences and prejudices of party-ism, and be not contaminated by burying yourself in the mire of political intrigue and debauchery.

From the Ellijay Courier, September 22, 1904. Dan Fowler, a native of the County, has versatility of talent. We present some of his verse.

An Apple Orchard In Bloom

I crossed an old rail fence into the apple orchard,
It was white with the trees in full bloom.
I asked myself what can be lovelier than such a spot in bloom?
I stopped so that I could drink with my eyes and steep my soul
In beauty that could not last.
I told myself tomorrow you'll be in a world
Too busy to pause before an apple tree;
Tomorrow you'll be straining to earn the shekels men covet.
The fragrance and pinkness of apple blooms will be pushed round
In a brain soon to be geared again to the old six and seven—

Cobwebbed with the tame and dull—
The glamor of this moment gone with your flying petals.
But said I to my inner self I shan't forget.....
I'll carry this memory far and long with me.
When snow flies in winter, I shall have spring in my heart,
Graced with apple blooms!
The rigors of winter shall not prevail against
The image I shall take with me when I leave
This old apple orchard, a riot of bloom.

Hope Springs

Here in the gloom my heart takes hope, ambition's flowers
begin to bloom;
Tomorrow's tasks may break my back but not my soul.
Tomorrow's ills may cheat my path, but not my goal;
Fetter the tempo of my step to halting, slow,
But as a soldier keeps in step, on I shall go.

Harvey W. Triplett, native of many years back, chose a difficult subject for a poem, and made it ring. An old and hackneyed subject takes on life, force and a measure of beauty.

Temperance

Give me the gold that rum has cost
Since man his birthright cast away;
The wasted skill, the labor lost,
The mental treasure thrown away—
And I will buy each rood of soil
In every yet discovered land,
Where hunters roam, where peasants toil,
Where many-peopled cities stand.
I'll clothe each shivering wretch on earth
In needful, yea, in rich attire,
Vesture befitting banquet mirth,
Which kings might envy and admire.
In every vale, in every plain,
A school shall greet the gazer's sight,
Where every child of man may gain
Pure knowledge, free as air and light;
In every crowded town shall rise
Halls academic, amply graced,
Where ignorance may soon be wise,
And coarseness learn both art and taste.
To every province shall belong
Collegiate structure not a few,
Filled with a truth exploring throng
And teachers of the good and true.
In every free and peopled clime
A vast "Walhalla" hall shall stand,
A marble edifice sublime,
For the illustrious of the land—
A pantheon for the truly great,
The wise, beneficent and just;
A place of wide and lofty state,

To honor and to hold their dust.
A temple to attract and teach
Shall lift its spire on every hill,
Where pious men will feel and preach
Temperance, peace, and to all goodwill.
Music of bells on sabbath days
Round the whole earth would gladly rise,
And one great Christian song of praise
Float sweetly upward to the skies.

September Sulphurs

By George G. Ward

Scattered in a lonely country lane today
I find butterflies sitting like flower petals folded
In perfect stillness except for sucking spiral tongues
Till I trudge near.

Then, large and small, they arise and float like blinking eyes
On banded, orange, yellow or greenish-yellow wings.

To and fro, up and down, they drift and dip and rise,
Then silently through a fence into a green field they go.

The beauty of these creatures is the finest we dream.
They surpass the morning glories by the way.
They are late summer's surest triumph,
Pure gold, lit and ever warmed by fadeless suns,
Faint notes of heavenly flutes.

When I had passed, the sulphurs settled again in the road
And resumed drinking by a clear little stream.
But I took them along with me forever blended
With love-of-beauty's life.

Georgia

By Mrs. E. T. Hudson

What glorious heritage is ours!
What wealth abounds!
These hallowed grounds
Are ours by birth.

Such we have in our great State,
Our native land.
How estimate
Our love of home?

By other mountains, ours compare
As greener and more fair;
The towering
Forests of tall trees.

These hills are blest, in some are pressed
Rich veins of marble.
Gold too is here—
The miner's lure.

From purer springs our mountain streams
Flow ocean-ward;
Through vales, through flumes,
Through factories and towns.

Our founding fathers' dust remains!
Their blood was shed
For honor's cause. . . . .
Revered are they.

Their names are graven in our hearts.
We till the ground
And heed the sound
Of voices past.

Sturdy, stalwart are thy sons!
And hewing true
To each hard line,
Face friend or foe.

Still looking to the years ahead
Their deeds must prove
A purer love for all mankind.

Concentric circles fold us in!
Let virtue be our goal,
And history unfold
A brighter page
Of Peace and Hope!

PIANO STUDENTS, CALLED A "MUSIC CLASS"

Ellijay, Ca. 1899

From left, back row, Miss Hardaway, teacher; Miss Mary Tankersley, Miss Lillie Cox, Miss Ora McHan, Miss Belle Osborn, now Mrs. W. H. Gudger, Miss Beula Logan.
Middle Row, Miss Lemma Warlick, Miss Pearl Cox, Miss Jo Holland, Miss Ethel Perry.
Front, Miss Pearl Tankersley, Miss Berta Cox, Miss Pauline Cobb, Miss Jimmie Ward.

ELLIJAY BAND, CA. 1902

First Row, Herschel Warlick, John Foster, Herschel Allen, Ed Frady, Waldo Kirby.

Second Row, Sam Ingle, by the drum; Ed Kelley, Claude Watkins, Bill Gudger, Herschel Teem, Cliff Welch.

Back Row, Mart Webb, Crisler Warlick; Director Jim Parsons of Pickens County, South Carolina; Epp Allen.

Of the few of these now (July 5, 1963) known to be living would be Herschel Warlick of Valdosta and Bill Gudger of Gilmer.

GILMER HIGH BAND, 1959-1960

Our whole community unites in hearty cheers for the Gilmer High Band, alert, talented and impressive in their uniforms. Paul Matthiessin is band director.

1st row, left to right: Susan West, Shirley DeFoor, Claudia Stembridge, Barbara Mosley, Algia Smith, Polly Penland.

2nd row: Lois Parks, Patricia Davidson, Jo Ann Ballew, Charlotte Parks, Joyce Whitaker, Paulette Wright, Peggy Wells, Lana Watkins, Ruth Mayfield.

3rd row: Tony Whitaker, Douglas Hall, Nanci Pritchett, Teresa Tankersley, Edna Sales, Mike Williams, Larry Hill, Dwight Davidson, Mary Ruth Wells, Shirley Wells.

4th row: Jack Dover, Sue Bennett, Inez Crooke, Jerry Fouts, Wanda Mulkey, Rose Knight.

5th row: Ruel Mulkey, Sandy Fuller, Catherine Waters, Elizabeth Wright, Charles Mulkey, Lynn Parks.

6th row: Gary Green, Johnny Simmons, Linda Parks, Betty Waddell, Lorene Davenport.

CHAPTER 20

Acknowledgements, Sources

The contributions of Bethel B. Quillian to the History of Gilmer have been substantial. His historical sketches, mainly biographical, of the pioneer days have been our richest source, in fact, for reliable information on the beginnings of Gilmer.

Of all the old newspaper files in the courthouse at Ellijay prior to about 1873, only one single copy of one paper remains. It no doubt escaped the destruction of Civil War days and the "reconstruction" that followed entirely by accident. The old records at the courthouse were, fortunately, saved. Some of the old, most valuable newspaper files since that tumultuous time have perished, also. Only within recent years have public officials taken a heartfelt interest in seeing old newspaper files bound and available to the public, as the law says.

The contributions of Mr. Quillian appeared in the Ellijay Courier, Oct. 3, 1879, to June 5, 1884, inclusive. These installments (considerably scattered in point of publication) have been revised and incorporated in this volume. The facts as Mr. Quillian gave them have been preserved with the utmost care—as many as possible in their original form and with their primitive flavor.

Quillian was born in Franklin county, Georgia, May 12, 1814. His family, some 10 years later, migrated to Habersham county, on the border of the Cherokee Country. He was in Gilmer assisting in its organization during the spring of 1833. He went back to Habersham and aided his family in removiing to Gilmer, July 1833.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, 1835 (the day after the "cold Saturday"), occurred his first marriage, at Ellijay, to Miss Sallie Ellington.

Sept. 24, 1837, he was authorized to exhort in the Methodist Episcopal church, and was licensed to preach by Russell Renean the 19th of April 1845. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop James O. Andrew on the 13th of January 1850. He was ordained an elder by Bishop George F. Pierce the 17th of December 1854.

He served as a state senator from the 41st district when each county had a senator, 1857 and 1859.

After the death of his first wife, he married, in 1866, Miss Lou J. Vanzant of Fannin county, Georgia. She, too, died Aug. 20, 1869.

Early in 1867, Mr. Quillian had removed his residence from Gilmer County and become steward of the Deaf and Dumb institute at Cave Springs, Georgia.

In 1870 he married Miss Lizzie Gaines of that section of the state where he was making his home.

Quillian opposed the war of secession. At the close of the Civil War he favored the earliest possible reconciliation and reconstruction.

He died Jan. 15, 1898. At the time, working tirelessly to the last, he was station agent of the W & A railroad at Cass Station, Bartow county, Georgia.

In Gilmer County, land he owned is now included in the J. S. Hudson estate, devoted largely to apple culture.

Without the selfless devotion of Bethel B. Quillian to the History of Gilmer County, a loss keen and well nigh irreparable would have resulted. The wealth

of detail offered on many points would have been but blank space or skeletons devoid of flesh and blood.

Let the name of Bethel B. Quillian be honored as long as men read these patient gleanings from the fields of past days.

Mary Boggs Gude, in her thesis on the Cherokee Indian and His Removal, deserves a share of mention and honor.

Federal census reports and the Federal Georgia Guide have made small contributions.

The Main Carnegie library, Atlanta, has given first class co-operation.

The Public Library, Woodstock, Vermont.

The New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, New Hampshire.

The East Tennessee Historical Society's Publication No. 12, 1940, pp 16-27, Article, "Early Baptist Missionary Work among the Cherokees," by James W. Moffitt.

W. T. Scott, 236 West Church Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

James W. Moffitt, Historical Building, Oklahoma City, Okla.

State Traveling Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

THOMAS HARLEY TABOR

Mr. Tabor gave generously of his time and effort to enrich our past record. He helped create an atmosphere of appreciation for the annals of the past. He was born May 10, 1855, and died April 26, 1926.

Congregational Library, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of Ethnology, Washington, D. C.

The maps and illustrations, being an important part of the overall task of compiling, should have additional mention.

The generosity of B. H. Stubbs, former teacher in the Ellijay High school, was very enheartening. He was a rare find. He did not ask how much he could get out of an undertaking like this, but what he could do to make our illustrations better.

Robert C. Adams, a very able man in the art of illustrating, stood by us during the critical years and actually sketched some of our most important illustrations.

Loving detail came from many who are honored as they are mentioned throughout the volume.

Continuing our list of sources, we would honor "Memoirs of Georgia," Vol I, the Southern Historical association, 1895, for data on several prominent persons.

All of T. H. Tabor's historical notes and sketches have been scanned and their gist transcribed. He, in turn, acknowledged his own indebtedness to State and National histories and public records; also to the American Ethnology association and to his historians White, Marsh, Morris and J. F. Smith.

Old files of Ellijay newspapers, from 1875 to 1962, have been gleaned to marked advantage. The Atlanta Constitution, through quotes from Gilmer news, contributed from the last five years of the 1870s.

C. F. Owen originally published some of this material in the form of installments and sketches in the Ellijay Times-Courier, and deserves the honor of giving material aid and encouragement to this important undertaking at its very inception. In this respect he was all but alone on the field of conflict with the writer.

For the County as a unit, beyond official recognition, has had no part in the enterprise of producing the History, either in the form of compensation or mere investment. And, when given a chance to subscribe in advance for the History, the people of the County responded in a manner that warned the writer that the only hope of the author would be to make the book so good it might hope for some general circulation. This has delayed our getting the work out and into circulation.

After all, as we have remarked often enough, a County History, is a public enterprise, and is always so regarded when the matter is properly appreciated. But in Gilmer it has been strictly a private matter, and privately financed. This is certain: preparation of the book takes money—and OFTEN.

Maybe we'll get over this attitude and catch step with the most progressive counties.

We repeat that our only hope for financial success for this record is to make it BETTER.

All who have subscribed or will subscribe for the History, along with the author, are the ones in the main who are making it possible for Gilmer to have a History at all. For the author has no idea of asking subscribers for more than a fraction of the REAL COST of the book.

In May 1930 the Gilmer County Grand Jury elected me to do this work. It has proved a far more difficult, exacting and expensive (not to say prolonged)

task than we anticipated. It would have cost the County if it had employed the most common place research worker, unable to weave his material into readable book form, at least $40,000. As a Federal project, I feel safe in saying both the research and bookwriting combined would have run up to much more, not to mention the thousands of dollars additional for printing.

I have paid out extensively for materials and help over a period of years. And, though alloted nothing with which to go on with the task, I have steadfastly held to my purpose, in the face of the severest odds, to make the book as good as I could.

I must not close this phase of our discussion without thanking the Ellijay Womans Club for their faith and attitude and help in what we are doing. With the intelligence and character and appreciation this group brings to any task, they are usually right in their collective judgment.

William Ellington II and J. C. Allen, with many others—all reliable, intelligent and trustworthy—have helped (without a thought of compensation) with vital fact, stirring incident and humorous narrative.

Mrs. Mae Weaver McClure, while making but a slight contribution to this History, nevertheless kept diaries and jottings that distinguished her as a person of singular energy, character and faithfulness to an objective well worth while. Though she herself would probably have disclaimed any worth at all to what she was doing. Her memoranda, if preserved, will add light to the historian of the future, who will probably conclude that she spoke for her people by implication more than by tersely eloquent jottings.

Artist and Consultant in the Production of this History

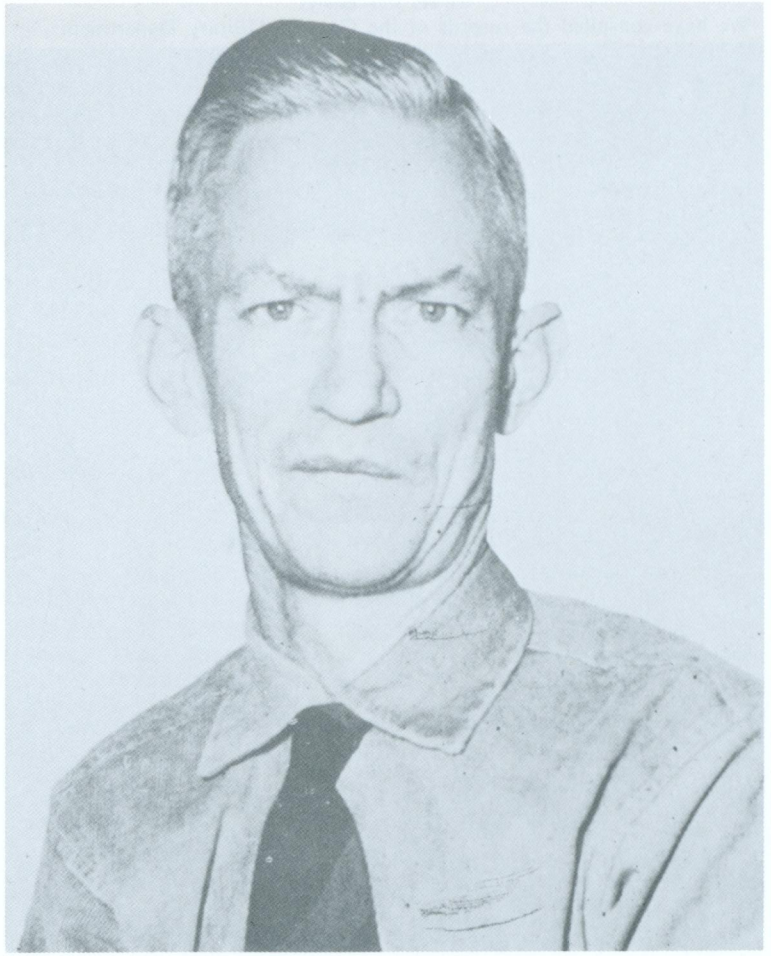
ROBERT C. ADAMS OF ATLANTA

GEORGE GORDON WARD

Author

George Gordon Ward

Friend of this Enterprise



B. H. STUBBS

He worked faithfully to improve the quality of this work with better illustrations.

Miss Marion L. Starkey, author of "The Cherokee Nation," one of the best treatises on Indian life in our section, has left for us some pictures of intense appeal of days 150 years gone around Talloney in old Gilmer. Her book was published in 1946 by Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

We have consulted the records of the Georgia Military Department.

We have remembered to credit a number of people scattered through the record. We need not name them here again. Except that we want to emphasize the work of Robert C. Adams of Atlanta for its importance in helping us to the goal; also Charles H. Smith for his long sustained faithfulness. He lives in Atlanta but also maintains a home in Gilmer.

Hiram P. Bell's book, "Men and Things," has given us more insight.

I was born early enough to know persons who could add some ideas on the construction of Fort Hetzel.

Files of the Boston Recorder for 1817 to 1831 have been available. Other help has been procured through: State Traveling Library, Des Moines, Iowa; James W. Moffett, Oklahoma City; W. T. Scott, Jacksonville, Fla.; Public Liorary, Woodstock, Vermont; The New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, New Hampshire; Robert Sparks Walker, Chattanooga, Tenn.; D. H. Taylor, Hopkinsville, Kentucky; and a host of others, many of whom gave their information by word of mouth.

I have traveled considerably over this region of Georgia and neighboring states.

Sources on the Kiker family were Who's Who in Commerce and Industry, for C. W. Jr.; and Georgia Official and Statistical Register.

We wish to extend our most cordial thanks and appreciation to the following persons who have deposited their money in advance for copies of the History. They are the vanguard of assurance of victory for realization of its issue.

Charles Bradley, Dr. W. C. Chastain, J. Gordon Cole, C. G. Cox, T. W. Dover, Vernon and Estus Dover, Ben H. Ellington, William Ellington, (Norcross, Ga.), O. W. Fain, J. M. Garrett Jr., Mrs. N. C. Goss, J. K. Greer, (Hawkinsville, Ga.), Dow Hamrick, J. M. Hill, Willard Holden, Norman Holloway, E. T. Hudson, J. S. Hudson, Herbert James, Mrs. Oscar Jones, (for Irene Carpenter), Roy Kell, Inez Martin, Mrs. Harriet Miller, Glenn Milton, Hub Milton, Felix McKinnish, J. D. Mullinax, G. A. Newlon, C. E. Owen, (Canton), Bryan Parks, C. M. Parks, Dora Parks, James L. Parks, Jack Penland, Mrs. J. H. Penland, S. O. Penland, Herman Pinson, W. H. Plemmons, C. C. Poindexter Jr., Julius Rogers, Louis Scharlach, Miss Florence Simmons, Mrs. Virginia Teal, Grover Ward, Grady Watkins, Ralph Weeks, (Munday, Texas), Dan Westmoreland.

The records of the Georgia Military Department have been available and were helpful.

I leave a few facts for the use of the historian to come for my region. He will do well to read my stories originally appearing in the Magazine of the Atlanta Journal of the following dates:

For 1921, Sept. 21, Dec. 18 and 25
1922, May 14, June 25, Aug. 20, Oct. 8.
1923, Jan. 14, Sept. 23, Sept. 30.
1924, Feb. 17, March 30, April 13, May 18, July 6, Sept. 21, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, Oct. 26, Nov. 16.
1925, Sept. 13, Sept. 20.
1926, Jan. 17, Feb. 7, Aug. 8, Nov. 21.

Friend and Helper

CHARLES H. SMITH

A personal friend and patriot in the Cause of this History.

1927, May 15, May 22, June 12, July 10.
1929, June 2.
1931, Feb. 15, March 27, June 28, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 6, Nov. 29.
1932, Jan. 3, Aug. 7.

I am bequeathing to the future historian easy availability to all these magazines in chronological order.

During one of the most perplexing periods of my labors the Official and Statistical Register of 1957-58 came to my rescue through the courtesy of Ben W. Fortson, Secretary of State, and Mrs. Mary G. Bryan, Director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Again I hail the men and women about the offices of the Gilmer County Courthouse for their many and long sustained courtesies. I am persuaded they, too, believe in this work.

My final thanks go out to groups and individuals who have generously backed our enterprise during its closing months.

SPECIAL MATERIALS

Fraternities

The fraternities of Gilmer County consist of Masons, Odd Fellows, the Ku Klux Klan, and several more that will be listed.

The Masonic organization at Ellijay is called Oak Bowery Lodge No. 81. There has never been but this one lodge in Gilmer. It obtained a charter from the Grand Lodge on the 31st of October 1849. The first Worshipful Master was Zelotes H. Mason. The first Senior Warden was Beverly A. Freeman; and first Junior Warden, John Jones. Alexander Murray was first Secretary.

The charter was granted when Most Worshipful William Crosby Dawson was Grand Master of Masons in Georgia and Right Worshipful Simri Rose was Grand Secretary.

The names of members on the first return made of Oak Bowery Lodge 81 to the office of the Grand Secretary, year 1849, were:

Zelotes H. Mason, W. M.; B. A. Freeman, S. W.; John Jones Jr., J. W.; Robert R. Hunt, J. D.; Hiram P. Bell, Elijah W. Chastain, Robert A. Garren, Rev. John Mullinax, LaFayette Patterson, Ransom B. Perry, Jehu Thomas, Peter Patterson, Treasurer; Benjamin Johnston, Secretary; James G. Gudger, S. D.; William H. Milton, Tyler, William Cox, Coke A. Ellington, Jasper Johnson, Alexander Murray, Joseph M. Patterson, Joseph M. Slate, Eliezer Witzell.

R. R. Hunt, W. A. Cox and John Gordon Cole each served 18 to 20 years as Worshipful Master.

Happily, the records of the Masons is complete, having been rescued from fire, and go clear back to "dispensation wanted," Tuesday, November 21, 1848, when the first meeting was held.

Benjamin Johnston was "first petition."

Sensational events seem to have interrupted a meeting on June 5, 1861. The secretary, while initiation of Christopher M. Briant was in progress, stopped in the middle of a sentence. The record was not resumed till six years later, when Mr. Briant, having lived through the Civil War, came back for the rest of his induction, which was resumed and completed in due order.

The latest information we have on the Masons was published December 18, 1958, when the following list of officers was published.

Harold Hefner, Worshipful Master; Edwin Miller, S. W.; Harry Puckett, J. S.; Howard Stembridge, S. D.; Oida Abercrombie, J. D.; Al Clark, S. S.; Clarence McClurd, J. S.; Arthur Ballew, Chaplain; Glenn Marshall, Treasurer; Grady Ellis, Secretary.

On September 7, 1891, the Odd Fellows got a charter. They gave this up on December 1, 1898. They reorganized as Lodge No. 244, January 18, 1904. On that occasion 42 were initiated. Card applicants were U. S. Foster, J. F. Hedden, J. B. McKinney, H. P. Mulkey, J. H. Stafford, D. H. Day. June 18, 1904, Blue Ridge and Talking Rock lodges assisted Ellijay in re-enlivening the situation. March 15, 1905, the Odd Fellows reported further progress.

The Ku Klux Klan was organized at Ellijay in 1924, and is reported as active since.

On December 18, 1931, the Junior Order was taking steps for organization at Ellijay. Reports of further progress are meager.

Farmer organizations will be mentioned in chronological order and in connection with other events of their time.

The Lions Club is now active in Ellijay.

The American Legion is also an active organization.

We are informed that the Junior Chamber of Commerce has been reactivated about the close of 1958.

Navigation

Navigation of the Coosawattee river, which heads at Ellijay, has had an important bearing on the history and progress of Gilmer County. Carter's Landing, the old docks at Carter's Quarters, only 17 miles southwest of Ellijay, might with a degree of fitness have been called "Gilmer Landing."

For the river was an early commercial lifeline for our region, when goods from Charleston, Boston and New York were unloaded there and hauled on northward into Gilmer by sturdy wagon and team.

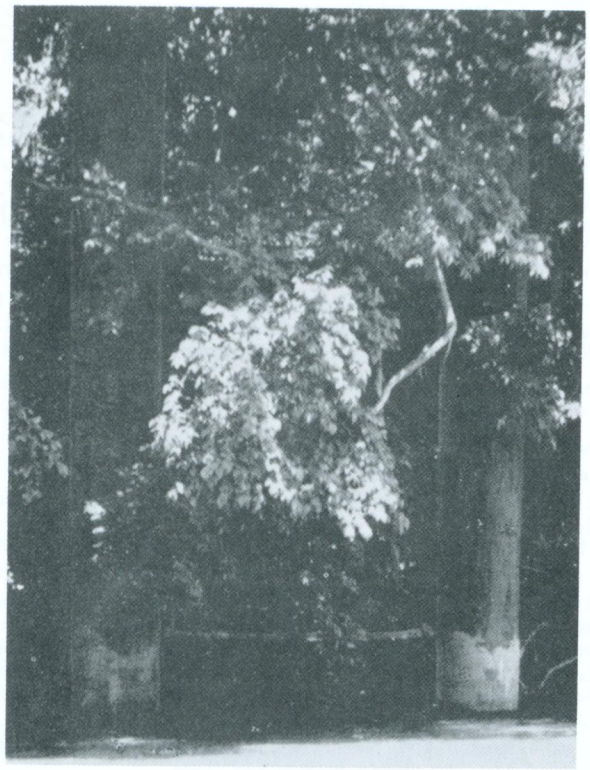
The Oostanaula was said to have been early regarded as navigable more than 100 miles north of Rome. Boats 125 feet long could follow its course as far north as Carter's. These boats usually had a paddle wheel at the stern and boilers and an engine on the freight deck. Above, such vessels had a pilot house and a passenger, or cabin, deck. They all had to be built flat-bottomed.

The crew consisted usually of a captain, two engineers, a purser and a mud clerk.

Early travelers and explorers of the Indian country saw a peculiar sight in the Coosawattee Old Town section, now known as Carters, or Carter's Quarters, as all old timers called the community. They looked up the Coosawattee river, with charming islands in its channel and water spread thin. But if they explored farther, they found a channel so rough that no one hoped to navigate it with any kind of boat, however small and light. It has never been done.

But, turning round, the travelers saw the same stream, having emerged into the fine bottom lands of Carter's and slowed in its flow (and Talking Rock creek having been added), large and deep enough to float a steamboat. While Carter's was never important as a river port, it does have the distinction, on old maps, of being the farthest north point of navigation in the state of Georgia.

The idea of navigating the Coosawattee from Carter's southward was early the subject of a treaty between the Cherokee Indians and citizens of the United States, who were accorded by treaty the right to navigate it. The Indians retained the privilege of operating ferries across it and inns by it.



HEAD OF NAVIGATION

These old abandoned steel bridge pillars, overgrown by luxuriant vegetation, mark the head of navigation in Georgia. They stand on the north bank of the Coosawattee river just above Carter's Landing. River steamboats turned around just before coming opposite them. For this picture, taken in 1956, B. H. Stubbs, accompanied by Ralph Messer, local postmaster, approached the site in a motorboat.

As early as Sept. 2, 1825, "Cherokee commerce was floating on the Ustanali and Conasagi rivers." The Coosawattee joins the Conasagi at old New Echota and the combined flow becomes the Oostanauli to Rome.

By June 1845 navigation, according to Rome historians, of the Coosawattee to Carter's had been accomplished.

During Civil War days the steamboats "Alfarata" and the "Laura Moore" lay at the docks at Rome and were coveted by Sherman to sail up the Oostanauli toward Calhoun and Resaca.

In the 1870s and the 1880s steamboats plied the Oostanauli and the Coosawattee rivers weekly as far north as Carter's Quarters. They were laden with guano, cotton, cotton seed, poultry, eggs and various other kinds of produce, with occasional passengers. A factor that much restricted the passenger flow was the fact that the head of navigation was but an immense plantation, sparsely settled compared with the days of Coosawattee Old Town.

In addition to Captain Francis Marion Coulter of Rome, other old "river salts" that were acquainted with navigation around Rome and north of it were Skippers Tom V. Marable, Frank Benjamin, J. M. Elliott, W. L. Appleton—to name but part of them.

Some of the river craft that took the northward journey from Rome were the John T .Warlick; but as to some others—the Clifford B. Seay, the Magnolia, the Hill City, the Alabama, the Gadsden, the Resaca and the Annie H.—we are not always sure. As late as 1921, Frank Hollbrook was skipper of the Annie H.

Rome early recognized the tremendous importance of river traffic west and north and in 1845 brought in the old "Use 'em Susie" by way of Mobile. The boat was built at Cincinnati, Ohio, about 450 miles northward, and was sent down by the Ohio and the Mississippi rivers. But it had to be entirely dismantled and drawn, piece by piece, by ox teams, past the shoals of the Alabama river for 100 miles. It was then re-assembled, and soon after chugged and splashed into port at Rome. This is one of the sagas of the early days, an inspiring legend of energy, perseverence, achievement and progress worthy of another Aeneid.

The skipper of this boat was Capt. James Lafferty of the brave days of old. The boat was named the Coosa for the magnificent confluence of the Etowah and Oostanauli rivers at Rome. But, due to the confusion of an all-but-illiterate pioneer who was trying to read the boat's name back to a welcoming crowd from which he had just separated, the vessel came to bear the singular name of "Use 'em Susie."

William Smith was a forceful character in launching navigation at Rome, and is said to have hired William H. Adkins Sr. to build the first boat ever constructed there.

The Ellijay Courier noted, in the summer of 1876, that steamboat service as far north as Carter's Quarters was available on the "Mary Carter." On Nov 2, 1877, another announcement apprises us that "Capt. W. L. Appleton, a real clever gentleman, is expected to reach Carter's Landing about Dec. 1 and weekly thereafter with his new steamer," reference probably being to the "Mary Carter."

The boat was named for Miss Mary Carter, daughter of William E. Carter. According to local traditions, she married Ben Hill, son of the distinguished Georgia statesman of the same name.

Some say the Mary Carter was built at Resaca, once an important steamboat stop on the Oostanauli. But James A. Hall, whom I consulted on this subject, thought it was built at Carter's Quarters. Capt. Francis Marion Coulter was the builder. He was said to have supervised construction of a dozen such river boats.

W. L. Hillhouse, another valuable consultant on this subject, said, "I saw the Mary Carter come down the Oostanauli on her maiden voyage in the spring of 1874." The boat had a capacity of 95 tons. Its trips up and down the Coosawattee fell off to one trip up in the fall to get Sam Carter's cotton and another in the spring to take up fertilizer, cotton seed and other supplies needed mainly on the Carter plantations.

The government spent considerable money on the channels of the Oostanauli and the Coosawattee rivers to keep them more navigable. The Coosawattee, having struck the gently rolling country at Carter's Quarters, suddenly slows down its progress and deepens very much, though its width is about like a canal. It is amazing, however, when one contemplates the stream, that a steamboat was ever able to negotiate its channel so far north.

Dredging consisted principally of raking rocks toward each of the banks and keeping the central channel to the maximum width—necessary for any navigation at all. An engineer named B. King was often charged with the dredging.

Battey's History of Rome and Floyd County and the Coosa River Valley, by Hughes Reynolds, have been additional help for data on some of the points of navigation. But it was Mr. Hall who furnished the data on the fate of the Mary Carter. He remembered when the boat was built. Luke Mitchell was one of its captains. Miss Sally Kimbrough was recalled as a sister of the captain's wife.

He it was that recalled that dances and other social festivities were sometimes conducted aboard the neat little craft. He described its appointments as swank. Its lower deck was usually freighted with cotton seed, corn and other local crops, including wheat. Mr. Hall himself, native of the Calhoun section, once cut a cord of wood to help fire the boat.

The last trip up of the Mary Carter ended in a sudden turn of fate. It appears that the boat was headed north. Dogs chased a deer to the bank of the Coosawattee. It plunged into the river precisely as the boat was passing. Hindered in crossing directly, it swam up the river alongside the boat.

The pilot began to race the deer. He swerved the boat in front of the deer to cut off its forward progress. He hit a log. Down went the Mary Carter.

The Mary Carter and other boats had wharves at Calhoun as well as Resaca. It sometimes had trouble negotiating the bridges at Reeves and Calhoun. On account of high water, the boat was once detained for three weeks at Calhoun.

It was but natural that somebody should try out a boat on the Coosawattee that was too unwieldy for the river. The "Dispatch" was such a vessel. So large and long was it that it could be turned only with difficulty. "The Etowah" plied the river in the summer of 1869. "The Mitchell" was another. But all found it impossible, on account of high and low waters, to maintain schedules.

The last boat to ply the Coosawattee was said to have been a big flat-bottomed affair, designed exclusively for freight transportation, and short cruising. It did most of its loading at Carter's. It had the paddle wheel at the stern. That probably characterized all the other craft of the river.

Upon completion of the L & N railroad by Carter's in 1906, navigation of the Coosawattee ended. Now navigation is out for a number of reasons, not the least of these being new bridges that would wreck any sort of craft.

But navigation of the Coosawattee once had its hopeful hours. And those who treasure memories of the old days still love to repeat the legends of the old days when hardy men sailed (sometimes in the night) up and down the river, and they recall with regret the slim prospect that such days may return.

When navigation was stout of heart, Ellijay might have been served with at least flatboats, thus extending the head of navigation in Georgia by 17 miles. And here is how it could have been done.

A canal could have been cut through Ella Gap, then a dam built below the site of the present highway bridge over the Coosawattee river south of Ellijay. Construction of this dam so as to back water well up to Ellijay and to fully accomplish diversion of the river into a new channel would have been necessary.

This would have given an infinitely smoother channel to Talking Rock creek. From there west to Carter's Quarters may sound impossible. But it wouldn't be were we given enough time and the will and the energy to do it. It is well within the bounds of the possible.

The wheel of fate has again turned, and plans are already being executed by the Federal Government to build a dam at Carter's (Coosawattee Old Town). This will bring at least deep water up the wild, rough channel of the Coosawattee to Ellijay.

An Earthquake

A few of our most elderly people can recall an incident almost as startling as the "starfall" of 1834. This was an earthquake that came on the night of Aug. 31, 1886. Suddenly mysterious sounds were heard, for no apparent reason at all, all around people. Dishes rattled, doors and cabinets opened and shut, floors heaved and creaked, whole houses snapped and staggered.

My somewhat superstitious father, who declined to commit himself as to the existence or non-existence of ghosts, rose in the night, refusing a five-year boy time to find his shoes but hustled him out in his sock feet. He then took my mother, another brother and a baby sister and abandoned his own house for the home of his father two miles away by a rugged trail.

Heavy shocks continued at intervals for hours.

The mystery was later cleared by news of a terrific earthquake centering under the ocean near Charleston, South Carolina, the focal point of destruction. Seven out of every eight houses there were destroyed. Forty-one lives were lost and property damage ran to five million dollars. In Gilmer, there was no particular damage beyond various degrees of fright and shock. This is the only earthquake of consequence known to the County.

Aurora

The aurora borealis is sometimes observable from the elevated vantage and the clear atmosphere of Gilmer County. This appearance was seen during some nights in the spring of 1920. I observed it in the far north. It looked a good deal like a very far off whitish cloud shot with varying degrees of red. Dow Grace remembered one aurora he saw one time when he was going home from a visit at Buck Horn. He said it looked like a blood spot on the sky.

Another such phenomenon was reported from Gilmer County by Mrs. B. A. Gunn of Atlanta. Mrs. Gunn was visiting in Gilmer at the time. It was a chilly night, 20 degrees above zero. The sky was clear except far in the north, where halfway from the horizon to the zenith appeared a "thunderhead" underneath and above which was a red glow. This was deep near the cloud, the color thinning to rosy pink farther off. On the extreme right of the cloud rays like those of a setting sun shot toward the zenith. But these rays were red instead of golden as the sun's rays might be.

An Indian Trader's Record

The following historical facts were gleaned from the records of an old mercantile establishment of Ellijay, which was already established and active before the Indians were removed from Gilmer County. Sales and patrons (fortunately) were recorded day by day.

This interesting old book is still in the possession of Willard Ellington of Gilmer. It was probably written largely by Coke A. Ellington, and was his record of original entry. Beginning with Aug. 29, 1837, the following list of people made purchases in the Ellington store. At that time money was divided into six and one-fourth cents (this size coin being called a picayune), twelve and one-half cents, twenty-five cents and one dollar.

Beeson (for J. W. Griffith), probably a Negro slave.

Nathan Smith, William Moore, L. Loudimilk, L. Satterfield, S. Bailey, John Allen, Mr. Fields, Mike Obare, George Brock, John M. Vicks, James G. Wallace. Mrs. Abels, John Stone, David Fisher, Washington Falls, William Newberry, William Mathews, Sam West, Perry G. Garmon.

U. S. (Reference to military staff maintained at Fort Hetzel)

Peter Crow, Thomas B. Clark, James J. Logan, William Field, Colby Crain, John Franklin, O. P. Anderson, Joseph Derick, John Martin, H. Harris, George A. Thomas, William Godfrey, James M. Ellis, F. Roberts, James Espey, Sam Clonts, William P. King, William Case, Felix Chapman, Robinson Hill, James S. Moreland, J. Coggins, "Robert" (Capt. Allen's Slave) John Patterson, John B. Smith, Mrs. Tate, of Long Swamp (Probably; Mrs. John Tate), Carrie Isom, Robert Sanders, Benjamin Chastain, Richard Ratliff, Major Sutherlin, S. (Sam) Tate, Amy Quillian, Lottie Long, William Gudger, Jonathon D. Chastain, John Dunn, William Champion, James Bird, John Crumbley, Dick Whippoorwill, (Indian); John Whitsel, John Thompson, Sam Case, Thomas Wilson, E. D. Canter, Joseph Clayton, William Carroll, William Tucker, Berry Henson, Willis Jones, Elijah Sarten, Isaac Gideons, Phideas Pinson, Mr. Husky. Robert Kincaid, Noble, Gideon, Slave(?); Sarah Quillian, Larkin Holt, John Barton, Peter Shepard, Uriah Holden, Alexander Kell, Wesley Bramlett, Elijah Johnston, John Thomas, Huckleberry, (Indian); E. W. Chastain, Taylor Killian, William Reed, William Griffith, Wright, ("Old Mrs."); James Charles, John Woodall, C. Quillian, Reuben Fossett, Seaborn Holt, B. B. Quillian, J. Ratliff, M. Charles, Larkin Wells, R. H. Cannon, John Stephens, C. A. Ellington, John Walker, John Addington, (Two men of this name—one in Ellijay, the other in Cartecay); Neal Berry, A. Y. Densmore, Berry Williams, Mr. Godfrey, Ralph Smith, James Cody, Elias Davis, (of Hot House); William Berry, Benjamiin Evins, Memory Walker, John W. Griffith, Sally Sam, John T. Bailey, Lewis Quillian, L. B. Ellington, D. Quillian, Jackson Serrett, J. E. Price, C. Cooper, L. Stevens, William T. Cole, Mrs. Hostetter, (of Long Creek); Alexander, B. M. Griiffith, Geo. W. Parks, Priscilla Ellington, John Tucker, M. Greer, A. Smith, A. Pinson, William Townsend, Christopher Holloway, Riley Allen, S. F. Plemmons, Aaron Smith, James Kell, Mr. Redmond, Daniel Hollifield, John Deel, Andrew McClure, J. P. Garner, Silas Worley, Addington Jarrett, John Osborn, Arkansas (probably Indian); Richard Holloway, Thomas W. Wright, S. Jones, Absalom Pence, S. Griffith, C. Berry, Lasetor Crow, Darlin Brown, David Henderson, Ben F. Parks, William McMahon, J. H. Mauldin.

1838

William J. Leary, Frank Dover, William Carroll, William McNab, Charles Simons, Milton Davis, William Deal, Fountain Forester, William Dickerson, Thomas J. Mason, William Clark, F. Woolwood, Efrom T. Shelton, Richard Sisson, Alfred Roper, George Couch, Major Russell, Joseph Gibson, Reuben Dodson, John Epman, Russell Chitwood, John Leadbetter, William Hickman, William Morgan, Hiram Brady, John Franklin, Thomas Epperson, William Brigbel, Issac Broadway, Joseph Pickett, I. A. Beard, Mr. Maulden, Henry Pettit, William Watson, Leamon Stone, Hogan Gaddis, Benjamin Loyd, Mrs. Cody, James Nelson, Ezekel Hamby, Robert Woods, Dock Harland, James Garrison, David Fain, John Norton, Elizabeth Coggins, Lucinda Wallis, Joe Brumby, James Cates, Peter C. Tabor, Thad Wilson, Preston Marrow, Lewis Arter, Henry Wicle, Jonathon Romine, William Gilmer, Mr. England, Sergt. Grant, William Black, John Weems, Jonathon Cox, Jonas Denton, James Ross, John Stone, Toliver Trap, William Erwin, John Anderson, Solomon Cline, Wesley York.

1861

A few names of this year from the Ellington records follow along with several later dates.

Jackson Whitlock, William Sims, Daniel Gilbert, James Teague, Robert Howard.

1864. David McGlowery.

1867. Osham Blaylock, James Evitt.

1869. Frank Mealer, John Felmett, D. Miller, Mrs. (Annie E.) Craigo, S. Stansell.

1873. David Mulkey, John Duckett.

1877. Walter Roberson, Cobb & Hyatt, Morrow (probably Negro), Negro Bartley (employed by Mrs. Alexander), I. W. Griffith (buys calico through "Little Trap"), G. K. Cessna.

Articles Purchased, 1837

The following articles were purchased and incidents occurred in 1837. Prices sometimes accompany articles.

Horse rasps, blacksmith files, homespun (cloth made in the homes of the people), shirting, needles, pins, bonnets; slate, 25c; knife, 75c.

Wool hat (made mainly by local hatters like Calloway Whisenant); curb bridle, 75c.

Jeans (probably homemade, too), indigo (a dye, probably imported), small shoes, cambric, a pitcher.

Muslin; lace, 25c a yard; rum, pint 25c; umbrella, paper; wine, pint 25c.

Coffee, Sugar, 15c lb.; Sifter, Palmleaf hat, 25c; Axe, Calico, 37½c a yd.; Print, Checks (dress material), Nails, 12½c lb.; Castor oil, Skein of thread, Small wool hat, $1.25; Chisel, Kentucky jeans, Bottle, Side combs, Spelling books, 12½c apiece; Gunpowder, 50c lb.; Auger, ½ inch, Leather, Brimstone (sulphur), Camphor, 50c lb.; Tea spoons, Salt, Madder, Tacks, Wood combs, Fur hat, $3; Frequent small loans of cash, Bed cord, Bonnet trimming, Shaving glass, Smoothing iron, Curry comb, Coffee mill, "Bottle & full," 25c; Curry comb to "Arkansas", Plates, Cards, Silk shawl for Mrs. Alexander; copperas, Lead (probably in soft bars to be run into rifle bullets); Velvet, $1; Shoe knife (for shoemaker); Ladies hose, Bars of lead, Saddle, Gimlet, Lady's saddle, Epsom salts, Turpentine, Bed ticking, Ink, Buckram, Blankets, Braid, Sole leather, British oil, Essence of peppermint.

Vial of Opodeldoc (this seems to have been a kind of medicine; the spelling varies on the old handwritten records).

Hand-saw file, Butts, Screws; Bonnet border, Cotton drilling, Brown Holland, 25c; Pair silk gloves, 50c; Fine comb, Rum, $1.25 gal.; One drink, 6¼ cents; E. W. Chastain, ½ pt. rum (by Huckleberry and John Tucker, both believed to have been Indians); Handkerchiefs to Azias Holden, White homespun, 15c a yard; Bateman drops, Ginger, Peppermint, Compass, 1 pr. 25c. Looking glass, 25c; Tumbler, Blankets, $1.75; Riding whip, Flax towlet, Beached shirting, Salt cellars, Flask, 18¾ cents; Suspenders, White cloth, Brown shirting, Waist band, 25c; Set cups and saucers.

Mrs. Alexander sends Negro girl for ½ bar of salt, $1.37.

Red checks, Mill saw file, One pair shoes sold "if paid for in six days", One pair nippers, Awl blades, Pins, sold by lb.; Aaron Pinson gets $2.20 by an Indian; Rope, Cakes, 6¼c; J. E. Price buys bottle decanter for 75c; Girth, Gun flints.

Dick Whippoorwill (Indian) buys a pair of gallows, (suspenders) repays loan of 6¼c.

Turkey (red) cotton for Indian trade; Hand hammer, One cut of shoe thread, Soap, 6¼c per cake; One deck of cards, 37½c; Tobacco, Drawing chains, Tape, Chestnuts were bartered at 6¼c a quart; Potatoes were bartered, and brought 50 cents a bushel; Window lights (panes).

"Negro cloth," so called because often used in making clothes for Negro slaves.

Scissors, Casonet (cloth), $1.75 yd.; Sealing wax, Bridle snaffle and double rein,, Alum, Testaments (divisions of the Bible); Citron, Cheese, Ocean silk.

Sammatchee buys a pint of rum and is shortly back for more.

John W. Griffith buys a pair of shoes for "Tom".

Georgia nankeen, 37½c a yd.; Padlock, Tuck comb (or tucking comb); One "patent" vest, $2; Beef and tallow were bartered by customers, Halter.

Blank books, United States ("United States" meant any military personnel from Fort Hetzel, East Ellijay, or their representative).

Circassian cloth, 37½c a yard; Ferratin (a kind of cloth), Logwood (a dye), "Sundries" at times, Chest lock, Barrel, 50c; Ink powder, Straw flask, Almanacs since they furnished astronomical calculations, weather forecasts, calendars, and sometimes fun and philosophy, sold for 6¼c each.

Saddle bags, Buckskin gloves, Neckstock, $1.75; Flax thread.

Articles Sold in 1838

Skein of silk, White lead, "Stand" of curtains, Vest pattern, Fine collars, Socks, 50c pair; Red silk, 50c yd.; Saucers, Keg of gunpowder, keg and all, Candlers by lb., 50c; Saleratus (common soda), Riding spurs.

The bookkeeper forgot to charge two blankets to Captain Derrick.

Hartshorn, Rope by J. P. Alexander's Negro; Welding hoe, Blank book to United States, March 20, 1838; Pocket wallet, Set of horse fleams, Lettuce seed, Fur hat to John Stone, $5; One box of lucifers (matches), 12½c; Calomel, Finger rings, Bead bags, $1.50; Credit "by socks", Red cambric; Primer, Larkin,

Eight yards homespun "for Indian," L. Loudermilk; Skeins of flax and silk.

Cloaks, $6.00, $6.50 and $7.50, A quantity of blue cloth, Satinette, Bedcord, Upper cloth, 25c, Wash bowl and pitcher, Oil of wormseed, Cash loaned, Blacking, Marseilles vest, Rice, 10c lb.; Molasses (sold by bottle), Vial medicamentum, Shade gauze, Breast pin, Mill-saw file, Cinnamon bark, Three drinks seidlitz powders to John W. Griffith; "Pants", Rice to Mr. Engram of Union county for his son; 2 bunches fiddle strings, 4 yards bamboset, $1.50 to cash in making change for express rider"; Castor stands, Peter's pills, "Eye restorer".

U. S. by James J. Fields—paper, quills, sealing wax, wafers, tape, ink powder; Black worsted ladies hose, Loaf sugar, Prunello shoes, Unions, Chip hat, Backing (cloth).

Some article (name probably overlooked by recorder), 12½c, to Charles Epperson, Gun lock, Fine coat, $20, to John Thomas; Fine white hat, $6.50; Horse headstall, Vest backing, Sheep shears, Box of wafers, Coffee through Bet (female slave); Bosom and collar linen, Scythe blade, Cognac brandy, 25c pt.; Furniture checks, Mug and cake, Slate.

Shot in bulk, sales being especially brisk during spring season of squirrel, grouse (pheasant), and turkey shooting.

Cream of tartar, Set of china, Mrs. Alexander, $5.25; Pantaloon buttons, One dressed bonnet, Mrs. Irvin, $5.50; also a vial, $1.50; Stock lock, Book, Saint's Rest (probably "Saint's Everlasting Rest," by Richard Baxter) to A. W. Greer, 75c; Knitting needles, 12½c a set; Hone; 3½ yards of something to Henry Pettit; Tooth brush, 18¾c to J. W. Griffith; Hymn book, 50c; Fish hooks; Candle molds.

The sale of slates and school texts during both 1837 and 1838 would tend to confirm our belief that a school was operated at Ellijay during these years.

Bucktown

It seems strange that the smallest and youngest militia district, the most remote from railroads and the most mountainous should furnish us the most complete history of itself. We are indebted to Ernest Parker of that district for researches under this head.

Since each militia district in the County is entitled to one justice of the peace, elected by the people, and one notary public, recommended by the grand jury, and both commissioned by the governor; two bailiffs, elected by the people and commissioned by the ordinary, and one justice court each month, and a voting precinct, this manner of dividing the County is important and convenient to people locally.

Bucktown was once the eastern side of Tickanetley district. It was cut off the mother district at the request of its citizenship and for their convenience in administering the above mentioned local affairs. It was organized in the year 1892. Ellijay is the oldest district; Tickanetley is second, Boardtown third, and so on. Thus the younger they are the larger their number. Those districts having the most tillable land cleared were first organized politically.

Shortly before Bucktown came to birth, it is said a hunter, having killed a fine buck in that section, transported it to Ellijay and exhibited it there. T. H. Tabor, who long kept the antlers, suggested the already proposed district should be called Bucktown. And Bucktown it became.

Radical changes, within the last generation or so, have taken place in the habits of the people of the district. Take clothes, for instance. At the opening of this century practically every article worn was homemade—shoes, coats, pants, shirts, socks, dresses, headwear. Sheep raised locally furnished wool for most of this apparel. The cold winters and cool summers made the use of much wool far more welcome than would have been the case in warmer parts of the land. The use of cotton cloth has extended as the people have quit spinning wool in their homes.

Once it was common here as in many other parts of Gilmer County to see the women and larger girls at night carding, spinning and knitting by the light of rich pine knots. Sometimes a more or less reluctant and recalcitrant boy was impressed into this service. But the work of the women among pioneers was pretty distinct from that of men and boys.

Around 1928 there were a few people in Bucktown who still wove cloth. Even after the turn of the present century (1901 and thereafter) nearly all the homes of the district had looms, which you could hear "a-knocking for a quarter of a mile." And around 1930 Mrs. Henry Weaver was known as an expert at weaving. A few years before she wove blankets and still had her loom. "Aunt" Sis and Mimie Weaver had looms. Jasper Weaver had one.

People who might have woven longer could no longer by 1930, as they could no longer obtain "chain," better known as warp, for their cloth. This was long put on hanks, then on brooches. Their finished cloth looked neat enough and was

surely wear-resisting. The sewing upon such materials was all done by hand until as late as some 55 years ago. Then Henry L. Weaver bought the first sewing machine. He and Absalom Weaver carried the machine, swung on a pole (roads were trails then), from Bill Anderson's, a distance of two miles, to get it home.

Leather for shoes was tanned at home, then made into shoes. No tacks were used, instead small wooden pegs. Only a few persons had the knack of making shoes. Many people wore brogans, a stiff, ungainly, broad, flat shoe almost as stiff as European wooden shoes, from which they must have been designed. But they stood long, rough wear through stones, snow and mud. Polish for shoes was smut from pots and occasionally ooze from the poplar tree. Sourwood leaves were also employed.

At the turn of the century, also, these shoes were common. Thirty years later Henry Weaver still had all the tools for making them and could still make a serviceable shoe. He made his last pair about 1930—probably the last pair of shoes made in Gilmer.

Schooling was crude indeed. Schools were all subscription, the pupil having to pay as they do now for a singing school. While about 1872 a public school was established, the terms were only about three months, beginning near the middle of July. The old Blueback Speller was a great stand-by. It is said that one of the boys, having finished the Blueback, boasted to the other boys as he was about to start arithmetic, "I've learnt all about the spelling book, the almanac and the curry comb and now I'm starting through the blowing horn."

Several years after the district was formed the people had to go a long way after their mail. The first mail route was established in 1904. The post office was called Marion and H. F. Weaver was appointed postmaster, which office he long held. The first full contract was carried by Caleb J. and Amos N. Weaver.

During the Civil War Bucktown played a part. About ten of its citizens joined the Union army: John W. Weaver, A. S. Weaver, James Marion Weaver, Bill Weaver—all brothers. Others were H. E. Weaver, A. E. Newberry, D. B. Vandegriff, Mungin Sheldon. The last of these men, Mr. Newberry, died in 1924.

Only two of their widows were alive when Mr. Parker did his writing, Mrs. Sarah Weaver, widow of Henry L. Weaver, now 91 years old; being the oldest person in Bucktown; Mrs. Jemima Weaver, widow of James M. Weaver, who is about 84.

In November, 1864, Colonel Ashworth with a few Union soldiers came through Bucktown and stopped at Henry Weaver's, where Joseph B. Weaver now lives, for breakfast. While they were eating, a band of Confederates led by Jeff Fendley from Gainesville attacked them. After some firing and a small skirmish, without loss of life, several Unionists were captured. These were Col. Ashworth, John and Giddy Reed and Charley Whitmore of Tennessee and James M. and Bill Weaver of Bucktown. After the encounter those captured were carried to Gainesville where Whitmore and some others were killed.

James M. and Bill Weaver were carried to some place in south Georgia and again placed in the army on the Confederate side. They had walked so much their feet were skinned and very sore, making walking almost impossible. When the Yankees finally began to advance on their camp and they were about to have to move camp, the two men got permission from their lieutenant to march ahead of the other men, claiming their feet were so sore they could not keep up with the rest of the army. When out of sight, they escaped to a camp of men lying out of the army. After a few days there, they walked all the way to Nashville, Tenn., thence to Indiana, where they remained till peace was made. They returned to their homes in Bucktown in June 1865.

When James M. Weaver was pressed by Fendley's men and was threatened with capture, he threw his pocketbook by a tree. The next year when he returned home, he went to look for his money and found it still there.

Some of the people of Bucktown just at the close of the Civil War were Mayberry Kurns, who lived where D. S. Newberry now lives; Moses Fendley, at a spot known as the Elrod place, near J. A. Weaver's; George Pettit lived about where J. J. Mooney lives; and Gazzaway Fowler lived where Marion post office is located now.

Telephone service into Bucktown was a great step toward improved living. Communication, until about 22 years ago, was by personal messenger on horseback or afoot. When a doctor was needed, someone had to go all the way after him (Bucktown having no doctor) or to Roy, in Cartecay district, to a telephone. For many years this was the nearest telephone.

In 1912 the citizens of Tickanetley and Bucktown assembled and organized the Tickanetley Telephone Company. The first line was built in September 1912 from S. G. Clayton's in Tickanetley to A. D. Weaver's in Bucktown. This first phone service stimulated the organization, in March 1920, of the Quill Telephone Company, which completed a telephone system in this district. At present there are some twenty families who own a telephone.

Rapid changes in manner of living are coming to Bucktown as well as the rest of the mountains. Travel today is mostly afoot, in wagons, or on mule back. The district boasts six motor vehicles and two buggies. Mules and horses some few years ago displaced oxen in farming, travel and industry generally.

In the days of free range, Bucktown was noted for livestock. It was, on account of its mountainous, well watered and forested surface, well adapted to this type of industry. Now few cattle are marketed, although a large part of the district has been fenced off into what is called a "stocklaw pasture." There are about 85 head only.

Bucktown leads Gilmer's 15 militia districts in sheep raising and the production of wool. Because of the partial free range system, it affords some excellent advantages in sheep culture. About 113 sheep as well as some 250 hogs range on the fenced portion.

Still more income is derived from the sale of poultry and eggs. This, from the 28 families of the district, reaches about $2,500 a year.

Fruit growing is extending. About 2,000 apple trees produce fruit of much beauty and delicious flavor. This means hundreds of dollars more. We cannot farm much in Bucktown, it being too mountainous and rough. But we are gradually learning what we can do successfully and applying and adapting ourselves to that.

Winter in Bucktown

These interesting facts were related by Reuben Sanford to Ernest Parker in 1932. Mr. Parker carefully noted down what he said and saw that it found publication. Mr. Sanford was then in his eighties.

"One winter about 60 years ago (probably the winter of 1872) my wife and I lived far back in what is now Bucktown district on a mountain. Though I have seen winters almost as bad, that was the worst one in my life. One night in March, after we had gone to bed, it commenced to turn cold and snow. Colder and colder it got until it was impossible for us to keep warm under the bedcover. We got up, built a roaring fire. Finally we were forced to pull up all our chairs into a half circle at our backs and throw quilts upon them to keep from freezing to death.

"Next morning it was still snowing, the cold still terrific. We were caught out of meal. So I had to sack up a turn of corn, go out with it on my shoulder and face the bitter cold a good way off to my father's mill. As I trudged along I crunched snow already nearly knee deep.

"I found the mill broken down, well nigh torn up. We worked all that day till very late trying to get the mill fixed so it would grind. But we failed. So I had to go back home without any meal. Another foot of snow had fallen during the day. Walking was slower and harder.

"All day we had eaten no bread, the main item of our meals. So we boiled corn and made grits—not good at all, but we had to eat. An old hen turkey we had set in a brush heap got snowed under completely. While I was gone to the mill, my wife went out and made an opening through the snow to let the turkey leave her eggs so she would not freeze to death. The snow on the brush pile was an arm's length in depth.

"Early on the second morning after the snow commenced to fall, a brother-in-law of mine, Joe Bell, went with me to Bart Crane's mill, several miles away. Though the snow had stopped falling sometime that night, it now lay over waist deep. Through that we slowly toiled, our teeth chattering from the cold as we went. Crane's mill was operated by an overshot wheel set so low that a trench had been cut in the ground underneath so the wheel could turn, which trench was always full of water. Except now it was frozen through and through and the wheel stuck hard and fast.

"Everybody was running out of meal. This had urged to the mill a company of some fifteen or twenty men, who were chopping and digging with all force and vigor trying to break the clutches of the ice on the wheel. Joe and I surged into battle against the ice. Anyway, it was either work or freeze. Undoubtedly the whole crowd would have frozen if Bart Crane had not kept us heated up with whiskey while we worked. All day long we shivered, cut ice and drank whiskey. Just about sundown the old wheel turned around. The shouts and yells of the half-frozen men could have been heard a mile. For we could all get meal now.

"The miller's wife, who was having to keep her cow up because of the snow, gathered an armful of ivy (mountain laurel) limbs and gave her, thinking it would make good winter green feed. The cow ate the poison green leaves and was soon stretched out nearly dead. We had to drench her on a quart of brandy while we severally waited for our corn, by turn, to be ground.

"The night following our trip to Crane's mill the snow crusted thick enough to support anybody's weight. One could walk over fences and never know they were there. I was walking about one day, when the crust began to melt, and it broke through. I sank to my waist. I dropped into a covey of quail. They burst out, filling my face with snow as they came. And before the snow melted nearly all the deer in the mountains perished."

Big Trees

Giant trees were a common sight to the pioneer. We did not get the primeval forest finally slashed down till within the last 35 years. The great hemlocks, or spruce pines, as we natives call them, such as stood in majesty not far from the Bud Jones mill until perhaps 30 years ago, were striking examples of what we once had.

Another giant—the largest tree I can recall—was alive in the Cashes valley watershed less than 40 years ago. Lawrence L. Stanley, native of Gilmer now living in South Carolina, told the writer that relatives of his, U. S. and H. S. Stanley, more than 40 years ago in Bile's Cove, Jeff Mountain, Diamond district, cut one of the gigantic trees of the County's history. The tree was sawed into five lengths, each 10 feet long. The butt cut produced 1125 board feet of lumber and the top one 975. The whole tree made 4,875 board feet. It was 60 feet to the first limb of this tree.

The saw to which these logs were snaked would not cut through the logs. They had to be turned over and opening of them completed with an axe. The first six inches of these logs was white wood, the rest yellow curly poplar. This tree is often referred to as tulip, but Georgia mountaineers know it only as poplar.

Another remarkable tree still stands near Wolf Pen Gap at the head of Stanley creek. At the ground this tree, which is also poplar, is the same size as the giant the Stanleys felled. It is estimated at 40 feet higher, however, than the tree that was cut, being about 100 feet to the first limb.

A poplar tree of the forest primeval type also stands in the Chattahoochee National Forest region in Mountaintown district. It has been visited by a number of people and viewed with much admiration for its great size and primitive character.

George R. Gilmer

George R. Gilmer, for whom Gilmer County was named, was Georgia's 16th governor. He was born in what is now Oglethorpe county, April 11, 1790. He served in the war with the Creek Indians and the conflict of 1812 with England.

He served in the Georgia Legislature—both houses—and in Congress. In 1828 he was elected governor of Georgia, and again in 1837. He was a trustee of the University of Georgia.

In 1854 he was "devoting his time to the cultivation of a farm. For recreation, he has explored much of the wild country about Lexington (his home), as mementoes of these tours he has collected a most beautiful cabinet of minerals and Indian relics.

"In stature he is about five feet, nine inches. His complexion is sallow and his eyes piercing. In dress, he is plain. His manners are peculiarly fascinating, his conversational powers uncommon, his qualities of mind extraordinary. In heart, he is generous."

Negroes

The first Negro heard of in Gilmer County was a helper in the home of Rev. Moody Hall, near the present Talking Rock community. This was about 1819. Whether she was a slave or not does not show on the record. She was probably a "free Negro." In August 1824 a Negro woman joined Carmel church.

As Negroes now live in Ellijay district only and work in Ellijay or perhaps farm or garden a little near their home, they are a rather novel sight in most of the County.

As many Indians owning extensive tracts of land also owned Negro slaves, it may be that quite a number of Negroes went West with their masters in 1838. It is on record that, during that notable migration, there were literally hundreds of Negroes (slaves) in the throngs.

Suprising shifts in the Negro population of old and modern Gilmer. Five years after the Civil War (1870) there were no Negroes in Ball Ground, Town Creek or Cherry Log districts. Other districts had them as follows.

Ellijay	9
Tickanetley	25

Boardtown	5
Cartecay	39
Mountaintown	9
Tails Creek	27
Leaches	3

During the following years the Negro population has varied in the County as indicated:

1880	126
1890	69
1900	77
1910	71
1920	38
1930	12
1960	9

Records of Negroes are few and scattered. They are mentioned here and there but little and seldom as individuals. It is mainly through public records, reminiscences and tradition that we gain a small knowledge of them as people. Persons still living can recall some of William Dorn's 35 slaves that he brought to White Path about 1856.

Of these were Emily, Bat (Emily's spouse), old "Aunt Rachel," Jim Hibbard, her husband; Louise, who was a cook and housemaid generally for the Spriggs family, which had an important part in the old mining-day traditions around White Path.

One of John W. Bramlett's slaves was named Shade, who, tradition says, sometimes made dismal complaints about his food, clothes and bodily suppressions and self-denials imposed upon him. These were slaves, in all probability, of William Ellington I: Noble, Henry, Bet, Dels, Catherine, Phebe, Branch, Charles, the last four probably being youths at the time of Mr. Ellington's death in 1836.

Of the Ellington Negroes, Bet and Noble were husband and wife. It was to Bet that the accident of falling backward from the road cart and getting (along with her baby) ducked on the way into Gilmer County happened. Noble was also along on that occasion. Bet is remembered as putting a lot of emotion into her religious life, often shouting at church and sometimes at home.

She lived far beyond slavery days, until she was quite old. She remained in Gilmer after her freedom. During her last days she lived with a white family that permitted her the use of a trundle bed for herself. Many times after Bet had gone to bed the white occupants of the bed above hers could hear her praying devoutly after she had retired. White people respected Bet's views, for she had character; and, if she wanted to shout before starting on a journey, nothing was said and time was extended. She seems to have left the most vivid memories and the most powerful individual impression of any Gilmer Negro of the old days. She died at the home of Elijah Pettiit, a white pioneer.

Some of the Ellington Negroes are said to have been buried in the white cemetery, along with Indians.

Milton Davis brought slaves from South Carolina and settled them in Tickanetley district, which, for some years after the Civil War, was surpassed in its Negro population only by Tails Creek and Cartecay.

Two bills of sale of Negroes have survived in Gilmer County. One conveys a Negro boy named Joseph, age 15 or 16, from John McKinney to Alfred B. Roberts, who paid for the youth the sum of $563. The other conveys from Hardy C. Tatum a Negro girl, Mariah, about 16 years old, "warranted to be sound

in body and mind," to Alfred B. Roberts, also for a consideration of $687.50. Joseph was sold June 11, 1851; Mariah, Dec. 22, 1843.

The Atlanta Intelligencer of 1962 re-printed a map of Georgia as it was, purportedly, 100 years before. Each county thereon is marked with the percentage of its people held in slavery, and Gilmer County is credited (or charged) with 20 per cent. Say our population was 10,000 or approximately so. This would give us 2,000 slaves.

This, in our candid opinion, is a terrific exaggeration. If, at the time this map was made, or at any other time, there were more than 200 slaves in Gilmer County, we cannot find where they were, even if that number included children.

Another evidence of the small amount of slavery here was the small economic shock felt here when freedom for the Negro came. William Dorn, at White Path, with his 35 slaves, probably suffered the severest personal losses of any man in the County. But he was a South Carolina man and brought his slaves from there, and much of his losses may have mainly involved investments made there and finally felt there.

Dorn was quite a figure at White Path and in Gilmer County. He and his freed slaves all seemed to like White Path both before and after freedom. He had owned a rich gold mine at Edgefield, South Carolina, before he came to Gilmer about 1856. Having reportedly dug two million dollars of gold from that, he came to White Path with his slaves and money and began investing there.

But he fared so badly during reconstruction that he came to a dead halt. He asked John M. Ward, a neighbor, to assume responsibility and care of his White Path properties in the late 1870s. The Ward family had to move into the hotel, where they remained several years. But Mrs. Robinson came along and revived patronage. Then the J. M. (Marion) Dorns took over. At first they just spent the summers at the hotel. But they finally, about the close of the last century, came to staying the year around and entertaining guests during the summer.

Under Families and the section devoted to Waters, the reader will learn of the personal attachment between a white pioneer named Abner Waters and a Negro named Bob. It is not quite clear whether Mr. Waters took Bob as an infant and simply brought him up or acquired him as a baby and reared him. But the friendship between the two was as rich as that binding Damon and Pythias.

In my researches of the Negro occupation of Gilmer County, I consulted in Ball Ground district and learned that a colony of Negroes, following the Civil War, survived for quite a while both in Ellijay and Ball Ground districts. Negroes once maintained a church near Talona. And there is an old cemetery, once set apart for the use of colored people in Ball Ground district.

The Wrights, Teagues and Dr. Calvin Bradley were reportedly among citizens of that area that owned slaves. Alfred Roper and Marion Palmore and Sid Palmore were among those of color who remained in the same area after the Civil War. Also, after freedom, Henry Wright, a Negro preacher, lived in that section and was often heard by both Negroes and whites.

In 1877 Gilmer's only Negro school had 22 pupils.

Sam Withrow, Andrew Withrow and Sim Jackson appear in one report of World War I soldiers. The official list of that conflict is said to contain the names of five Negroes.

The Indians occupied this land and were removed much against their wills. The Negro was brought in without his consent. But when he had freedom to travel about, he went wherever he thought he could do the best for himself and his family.

We hope we may some day be able to offer a name, among our negroes, to match the fame of Roland W. Hayes, native of adjoining Gordon county.

A Marker for Pickens County in Jasper

Pickens County was created Dec. 5, 1853, and named for General Pickens of Revolutionary fame. The first settlements sprang up along the old Federal Road which followed in general the route of the highway through Tate, Jasper and Talking Rock.

Mt. Oglethorpe (formerly called Grassy Knob), Burrell Top of Burnt Mountain and Sharp Top Mountain dominate the sky line in the northeastern part of the county; to the southwest is Sharp Mountain. Coming of the railroad in 1883 made possible development of a large and important marble industry.

A Marker on Fannin County

A large part of Fannin county was once included in original Gilmer. We include the wording of the county's marker set up near the courthouse in Blue Ridge by state authorities. This is how it reads:

"This County, created by Act of the Legislature, Jan. 21, 1854, is named for Col. J. W. Fannin, who was killed in the massacre at Goliad, March 27, 1836. He had been captured with about 350 Georgia Volunteers under his command while fighting for the Republic of Texas in its successful War of Independence with Mexico.

"The first County Site was at Morganton but it was moved to Blue Ridge Aug. 13, 1895, by vote of a public election. The greater part of this County, which contains the Noontootly National Game Refuge, lies in the Chattahoochee National Forest."

Our Historical Committee

Though crowded this final hour, we clearly feel enough space should be found to commend most cordially the History committee formed early in the year 1965 from the best friends of the history. We have purposely kept the group small for greater facility of operations. It consists of Mrs. E. T. Hudson, C. E. (Dink) Waters and C. C. Poindexter Jr., Mrs. Hudson heading the group and Mr. Waters serving as vice chairman; Mr. Poindexter heading contacts.

All have proved earnest, energetic workers. And I might add effective workers. They have called into their group meetings the author and other consultants. All have not only worked free of charge but have even given to the enterprise to crown it with success.

George G. Ward, author
February 8, 1965

County Officers

Many valuable records of Gilmer County were destroyed during a portion of the Civil War period. Raiders are said to have camped in the courthouse. The county clerk's office, fortunately, still has most of its old records. The ordinary's office also has many old ones. No disastrous fires, the bane of ancient records and authentic history, have ever swept through the entire building. Once or twice fire has broken out, however, but was extinguished while still confined to but a portion of the building.

We are able to append not only the names but, as well, the dates of service of nearly all the congressmen, judges of the superior and inferior courts, representatives, state senators, along with officials whose work was confined

strictly to the single county, from ordinary to coroner, who ever served Gilmer County. The list extends from the organization of the County through 1962.

The dates, in a few cases, may seem a little out of joint, but the matter will clarify itself when the reader recalls that election dates have been changed; that some officers resigned before their full time of service was over; others died in office; judicial circuit, congressional, state senatorial districts, as well as county lines, have been changed and readjusted.

Where no ordinaries, tax collectors, and treasurers appear, as they do later, we have but to recall that the inferior court at first had jurisdiction over county finances; tax receiver was sometimes treasurer, for example. During the Civil War southern congressmen were not seated in Washington, of course. After shifting from 5th (the original of which, created December 23, 1843, contained Dade County), 10th, and 6th congressional districts, we entered the 9th one, 1872.

Congressmen, Homes	Congress
Augustin Smith Clayton Athens	March 4, 1833—March 3, 1835
Jabez Jackson Clarkesville	March 4, 1835—March 3, 1839
Richard Wylly Habersham Clarkesville	March 4, 1839—Dec. 2, 1842 Died in office
Howell Cobb Athens	March 4, 1843—March 3, 1851
Elijah W. Chastain Tacoah (old Gilmer County, later Fannin)	March 4, 1851—March 3, 1855
Howell Cobb Athens	March 4, 1855—March 3, 1857
James Jackson Athens	March 4, 1857—Jan. 23, 1861 March 4, 1863—March 4, 1869
(Mr. Jackson withdrew from the National Congress on account of the Civil War. We were not represented there on account of reconstruction March 4, 1869—Jan. 15, 1871)	
William P. Price Dahlonega	Jan. 16, 1871—March 3, 1873
Hiram P. Bell Cumming	March 4, 1873—March 3, 1875
Garnett McMillan Elected to 44th Congress—died before the congress opened	
Benjamin H. Hill Atlanta (elected in place of Garnett McMillan)	March 4, 1875—March 3, 1877
Hiram P. Bell Cumming	March 4, 1877—March 3, 1879
Emory Speer Athens	March 4, 1879—March 3, 1883
Allen D. Candler Gainesville	March 4, 1883—March 3, 1891
Thomas E. Winn "Gwinnett County"	March 4, 1891—March 3, 1893
Farish C. Tate Jasper	March 4, 1893—March 3, 1905

Thomas M. Bell ..... March 4, 1905—March 3, 1930
Gainesville

John S. Wood ..... March 4, 1930—March 3, 1932
Canton

B. Frank Whelchel ..... March 4, 1932—March 3, 1944
Gainesville

John S. Wood ..... March 4, 1944—Jan. 3, 1953
Canton

Phil Landrum ..... Jan. 3, 1953—
Jasper

Superior Court Judges

Cherokee Circuit, created Dec. 3, 1832, changed to Blue Ridge circuit, Nov. 24, 1851.

John W. Hooper, 1832-35; Owen H. Kenan, 1835-38; Turner H. Tripp, 1838-42; George D. Anderson, 1842-43; John H. Jones, 1843; Augustus R. Wright, 1843-49; John W. Hooper, 1849-50; John H. Lumpkin, 1850-53.

Judges

Blue Ridge circuit, created November 24, 1851; David Irwin, 1851-1855, resigned Oct. 8, 1855; Joseph E. Brown, 1855-57, resigned Aug. 27, 1857; George D. Rice, 1857-65; David Irwin, 1865-68; Noel B. Knight, 1868-77; George N. Lester, 1877-80; James R. Brown, 1880-88; Will J. Winn, 1888-89; George F. Gober, 1889-1909; Newton A. Morris, 1909-12; H. L. Patterson, 1912-17; Newton A. Morris, 1917-19, resigned; D. W. Blair, 1920-25; John S. Wood, 1926-30, resigned; J. H. Hawkins, 1931-48; Howell Brooke, 1948-Aug. 1, 1960. Died in office; Sam P. Burtz, Aug. 4, 1960-64; Grady Vandiese, 1965—.

Representatives

Thomas M. Burnett, 1833-35; John E. Price, 1836-37; Samuel Jones, 1838-39; John E. Price, 1840-42; Russell H. Cannon, 1843-45; John P. Alexander, 1847; Joseph Pickett, 1849-58; Ebenezer Fain, 1859-63; Samuel Ralston, 1863-65; Coke A. Ellington, 1865-66; James M. Ellis, 1868-70; Joseph P. Chastain, 1871-72; N. L. Osborn, 1873-74; John P. Cobb, 1875-76; Joseph Pickett, 1877; W. R. Welch, 1878-79; Jonathon Withrow, 1880-83; E. W. Watkins, 1884-85; John P. Perry, 1886-89; T. W. Craigo, 1890-91; Julius Pickett, 1892-93; John M. C. Stokes, 1894-95; E. W. Watkins, 1896-99; W. R. Welch, 1900-03 (died June 19, 1904); T. G. Simmons, 1904-08; Robert E. Smith, 1909-10; W. B. James, 1911-14.

A. H. Burtz, 1915-16; W. K. Reece, 1917-18; S. O. Penland, 1919-24; O. P. Milton, 1925-26; J. L. Hamby, 1927-28; Watkins Edwards, 1929-32; H. W. Hampton, 1933-34; W. L. Parks, 1935-36; Bill Ellington, 1937-38; E. M. Wright, 1939-44; Delmer Mullinax, 1945-46 (while Mr. Mullinax was in office an election made W. A. Whitener representative-elect. But Mr. Whitener died before he could take office. The record says Mr. Mullinax continued in office till an election to fill the office could be held).

Edgar Knight, 1947-48 (Mr. Knight was elected to fill the time Mr. Whitener would have been in office had he lived).

Walter Simmons, 1949-52; Joe P. Holloway, 1953-54; W. F. Johnson, 1955-56; W. L. Harper, 1957-58; Ed Goble, 1959-60; P. T. McCutchen, 1961-62; Benjamin Cicero Logan, Jan. 12, 1963-64; Dr. C. B. Watkins, 1964—.

State Senators

Cornelius Cooper, 1833; C. Quillian, 1834; Cornelius Cooper, 1835-37; Coke A. Ellington, 1838; Cornelius Cooper, 1839; Elijah W. Chastain, 1840-43. (We enter the 45th senatorial district in 1845). Elijah W. Chastain, 1845-47; James Edmondson, 1849-50; George Chappell, 1851-52; B. F. Chastain, 1853-54; J. M. Patterson, 1855-56; J. B. Quillian, 1857-58; B. B. Quillian, 1859-60.

(41st senatorial district begins)

James Simmons, 1861-65; B. B. Quillian, 1865-66; John B. Dickey, 1868-70; John A. Jervis, 1871-74; Joseph P. Chastain, 1875-77; William H. Simmons, 1878-79; Benjamin C. Dugger, 1880-81; Thomas F. Greer, 1882-83; W. T. Day, 1884-85; Samuel Higdon, 1886-87; David Garren, 1888-89; C. B. Vincent, 1890-91; W. D. Smith, 1892-93; Thomas W. Craigo, 1894-95; J. R. Allen, 1896-97; Thomas R. Johnson, 1898-99; John M. Greer, 1900-01; J. R. Allen, 1902-04; G. W. Phillips, 1905-06; J. L. Weaver, 1907-08; W. T. Day, 1909-10; J. R. Kincaid, 1911-12; A. H. Burtz, 1913-14; Roscoe Pickett, 1915-17; Thomas Avery Brown, 1917-18; W. K. Reece, 1919-20; Will Richards, 1921-22; J. B. Chastain, 1923-24; C. F. Owen, 1925-26; Will Richards, 1927-28; Wade Allen, 1929-31; N. A. Pratt, 1931; Steve C. Tate, 1933; C. W. Kiker, 1935-36; Hayden Hampton, 1937-38; T. A. Chastain, 1939; C. W. Kiker, 1941-42; Hayden Hampton, 1943-44; Thomas A. Chastain, 1945-46; C. W. Kiker, 1947-48; Ed Rackley, 1949-50; Thomas A. Chastain, 1951-52; C. W. Kiker, 1953-54; C. E. Waters, 1955-56; C. James Roper, 1957-58; C. W. Kiker, 1959-60; C. E. Waters, 1961-62.

(Old senatorial districts having been abolished and a new and much larger district embracing Gilmer County having been formed in 1962, the election put in office the autumn of that year):

Zell Miller, 1963-64; Robert Ballew, 1965—.

Justices of the Inferior Court

1832-1868, four-year terms

Ralph Smith, 1833-34, appointed Jan. 18, 1834; Benjamin Cooper, 1833-34, appointed March 9, 1833; Cornelius Cooper, 1833-34, appointed March 9, 1833; Benjamin M. Griffeth, 1833-37, appointed March 9, 1833; Robert Berry, 1833-34, appointed March 9, 1833; Thomas Burnett, 1834-36, appointed Jan. 18, 1834; James B. Hanson, 1834, appointed Jan. 18, 1834; Ralph Smith, 1834-37; Clement Quillian, 1834-38, appointed April 2, 1834; Samuel Jones, March 29, 1836-41; again, 1846, 1849, 1853.

Benjamin Griffeth, 1837-38; James Stovall, 1837; Joseph Clayton, 1837-41; Coke A. Ellington, 1837-40; Moses Greer, 1838-40; Aaron Smith, 1838-41; John Addington, 1839-40; Jonathon D. Chastain, 1839-41; Thomas Wakefield, 1840-41; Larkin Stephens, 1840-41; Nicholas Osborn, 1841; B. B. Quillian, 1841; L. Stephens, 1841; W. Tate, 1841; Robert Smith, 1841; Benjamin Johnson, 1844; N. R. Osborn, 1845; Henry Pettit, 1845; again, 1849, 1853, 1857-1861; Lemon Stone, 1845; John Wikle, 1845-46; John L. Reid, 1845-46; John P. Fouts, 1846; William T. Fleming, 1846; again, 1849-50; Z. H. Mason, 1849-50; Peter Patterson, 1850; James G. Gudger, 1850; Alec R. Wakefield, 1850-52; Robert W. Young, 1852; Benjamin Johnson, 1853; Peter Patterson, 1853; James G. Inlow, 1853; William Kimzy, 1853; Jonathon Withrow, 1857-60; William Cox, 1857-61; John P. Fouts, 1857-61; John Hunnicutt, 1857-61; Joseph Stepp, 1858-61; J. D. Woodward, 1861; W. Minter Mathis, 1861; Joseph Batson, 1861-65; J. D. Woodward, 1861-65.

W. M. Mathis, 1861—65; N. R. Osborn, 1861—62; W. B. Plemmons, 1861—62; John W. Griffeth, 1855, 1862—65; William Stott, 1862; Jonas Pritchett, 1862—65; D. A. Smith, 1865; Jonathon Withrow, 1845—46, 1865; J. M. Payne, 1865; Pierce Roberts, 1865; John Parks, 1866.

The Inferior court was composed of five judges. It was abolished in 1868. The courthouse was built by this court, and the members of the court at the time (1854), as shown by their commissions issued by the governor, were: Samuel Jones, Benjamin Johnson, Peter Patterson, James G. Inlow, Henry Pettit, William Kimzy.

Ordinaries

Moses Greer, 1852; Robert R. Hunt, 1856; Joseph P. Chastain, 1860—64; Thomas Stallings, 1864—68; John W. Greer, 1867—72; resigned; William Ellington, acting ordinary, 1872; Elijah Russell, 1872—76; J. C. Allen, 1877—89; A. M. Johnson, 1889—96; J. C. Allen, 1896-1904; T. H. Tabor, 1904—12; W. A. Cox, 1912—16; J. C. Allen, 1916—20; R. J. Goble, 1920—32; Willard Holden, 1933—52; Claude W. Mullinax, 1953—56; Robert Worley, 1957—60; L. M. Bramlett, 1961—64; Mrs. Dorothy Mosley, 1965—.

Superior Court Clerks

Thomas M. Burnett, 1833—34; Henry K. Quillian, 1834—37; Hawkins F. Price, 1837—40; Joseph Pickett, 1840—44; Ranson Perry, 1844—64; S. F. Williams, 1864—70; William Ellington II, 1871—76; L. N. Greer, 1877—83; T. W. Craigo, 1883—89; W. A. Cox, 1890—1900; W. H. Gudger, 1900—06; T. W. Craigo, 1906—08; W. A. Cox, 1910—12; John P. Cobb, 1912—14; J. L. Weaver, 1914—20; H. M. Ellington, 1920—30 (died in office December 9, 1930); Bill Ellington III was appointed acting clerk until early in 1931, when a special election was held.

Howard Perry, 1931—32 (filled unexpired term of H. M. Ellington); John Garrett, 1933—48; Bill Westmoreland, 1949—.

Sheriffs

Levi A. Huffstetler, 1833—34; Isham C. King, 1834—36; John T. Bailey, 1836—38; Jonathan Cox, 1838—40; John M. Griffeth, 1840—42; Jonathan Cox, 1842—44; Samuel Jones, 1844—46; John Thomas, 1846—48; Ebenezer Whitzell, 1848—50; Wm. Cox, 1850—52; Wm. E. Plemmons, 1852—54; Wm. Cox, 1854—56; Austin Painter, 1856—58; James A. Gudger, 1858—60; G. H. Randell, 1860—62; Wm. Stott, 1862—64; G. H. Randell, 1864—68; P. H. Milton, 1868-73; G. H. Randell, 1873—75; Wm. Jones, 1877. Resigned May 29, 1877; J. R. Johnson, 1877—81; H. M. Bramlett, 1881—87; M. L. Cox, 1887—91; H. M. Bramlett, 1891—95 W. H. Foster, 1895—98.

A. J. Pinson, 1898—1908; R. L. Milton, 1908—10; J. H. Penland, 1910—12 (resigned Aug. 1, 1913); R. L. Milton, 1913—28; A. J. Pinson, 1929—32; W. E. Rackley, 1933—(died in office Feb. 24, 1938); E. H. Rackley, Feb. 25, 1938 (resigned Jan. 7, 1943); Foster Milton, Jan. 8, 1943 to June 16, 1944 (resigned to enter army; later active patrolman); Grady Daves, June 17, 1944 to Dec. 31, 1948. Ralph L. Davis, Jan. 1, 1949 to April 5, 1950 (removed from office by litigation); J. H. Hefner, April 6, 1950—60; Ed Goble, Jan. 1, 1961—64; Robert Worley, 1965—.

Clerks of the Inferior Court

Henry K. Quillian, 1833—34; A. B. Hanson, 1834—; Coke A. Ellington, 1834—35; L. B. Satterfield, 1835—36; Larkin Smith, 1838—40; Silas Worley,

1840—42; William Irwin, 1842—44; Bailey Bruce, 1845, 1846; Andrew M. Love, 1845; William Irwin, 1846—52; Moses J. Hunnicutt, 1854—60; Benjamin F. Frady, 1860; L. M. Greer, 1864—66; John Bangs, 1866—67; W. H. Forest, 1867.

Tax Collectors and Receivers

Garrett Copeland, 1850—54 (the two offices were combined); Jonathan Coggins, 1854—55; Benjamin C. West, 1855—56; William C. Allen, 1856—57; Charles N. Jones, 1857—58; William N. Kimzy, 1858—59; John Stone, 1860; D. W. Ashe, 1861; E. M. Clayton, 1861—64.

Then the two phases of the consolidated office are separated into two offices.

Tax Receivers

F. M. West, 1864—66; A. M. D. Kelley, 1866.

Then, during the unsettled times of 1869 to 1871, the offices were again consolidated.

N. Johnson, 1869; A. M. D. Kelley, 1870—71.

We then go back to separate offices. We resume listing receivers.

P. G. Hyatt, 1873; T. H. R. Tatum, 1875.

During the year 1877 we find the offices combined again.

P. H. Milton doing the combined work.

Then once more we make the offices a separate responsibility.

P. G. Hyatt, 1879; T. W. Craigo, 1881; J. H. Sharp, 1883; J. R. Kincaid, 1887; L. Langley, 1389; J. H. Sharp, 1891; A. E. Sharp, 1893; G. W. Gates, 1895; G. W. Gates, 1896; B. L. Hensley, 1898; J. F. M. West, 1900; B. L. Hensley, 1902; B. L. Hensley, 1904; L. B. Chastain, 1906; L. B. Chastain, 1908; J. H. Ray, 1910; J. H. Ray, 1912; R. A. Pinson, 1914; L. B. Chastain, 1916; L. B. Chastain, 1920—24; Felix McKinnish, 1924—62 (died June 15, 1962, while still in office). Mrs. Janie Marie (Myrtle) Vick Davenport, his niece, is appointed Tax Receiver in his stead till a special election July 17 to decide his successor for his unexpired term.

Mrs. Davenport wins this election, the first woman to be thus selected in the history of the County.

Janie Marie Davenport, July 17, 1962—.

Tax Collectors

A. J. Williams, 1864—66; John Stone, 1866; James M. West, 1873; P. H. Milton, 1875; P. H. Milton, 1879; G. W. Gates, 1881; G. W. Gates, 1883—85; James H. Sharp, 1885; L. Langley, 1887; J. R. Kincaid, 1889; Miles Plemmons, 1891; J. W. Parker, 1893; J. W. Parker, 1895; A. J. Cole, 1896; A. J. Cole, 1898; A. J. Cole, 1900; E. J. Chastain, 1902; E. J. Chastain, 1904; E. J. Chastain, 1906; Milton Holt, 1908; W. E. Rackley, 1910; W. E. Rackley, 1912; J. G. Ellis, 1914; J. G. Ellis, 1916; J. W. Hensley, 1920—24; W. S. McArthur, 1924—32 (resigned); J. H. Penland, 1933 (appointed late in the year 1932 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. McArthur until an election could be called and held); J. W. Hensley, 1933—44; H. D. Ray, 1945—48; Fred Elliott, 1949 (died in office); H. D. Ray, 1950—52 (won the election to fill the official vacancy left by Mr. Elliott); Thomas W. Pinson, 1953—.

Treasurers

John P. Cobb, 1866; Alfred Bishop, 1868-72; James Sharp, 1873; T. H. R. Tatum, 1875; J. H. Sharp, 1883; R. P. Parks, 1906; J. L. Parks, 1910; W. S. Henson, 1914; O. P. Milton, 1916.

P. G. Hyatt and P. H. Milton also once served in this official capacity.

Since 1920 the Bank of Ellijay has been County Depository. The office of County Treasurer was abolished in 1918.

Surveyors

Berry M. Griffeth, 1833-36; John M. Griffeth, 1836-38; Berry M. Griffeth, 1838-42; John L. Dillard, 1842-44; Berry M. Griffeth, 1845-53; Stephen Griffeth, 1853-64; B. Greer, 1864-66; L. Briant, 1866-67; Wm. Ellington, 1867—resigned; G. A. Roberts, 1868-71; James A. Carnes, 1873-83; James M. West, 1884-93; M. S. Clayton, 1895-1898; W. B. Painter, 1899-1900; M. S. Clayton, 1900-1910; P. G. Hyatt, 1910-12 (resigned 1913); F. G. Cantrell, 1914 (resigned 1918); A. H. Clayton, 1918 (appointed by Ordinary J. C. Allen to assist his father, M. S. Clayton).

M. S. Clayton, 1920-24; A. H. Clayton, 1924-1932; Tom Briant, 1933-35; A. H. Clayton, 1936-39; Charles Stegall, 1940-41 (resigned in August 1941). The rest of his term, part of 1941, 1942, 1943 is served by A. H. Clayton.

A. H. Clayton, 1941-43; A. H. Clayton, 1944-48; W. O. Douglass, 1949-52; A. H. Clayton, 1953-60; A. J. Davis, 1961—.

School Commissioners and Superintendents

N. L. Osborn, 1872; Dr. E. W. Watkins, 1873-75; W. F. Hill, 1879-88; Henry C. Tabor, 1888 (died a month after taking office); W. F. Hill, 1888-96; L. M. Simmons, 1896-1900; N. L. Tankersley, 1900-08; W. H. Allen, 1908-11; J. S. Hudson, 1911-21; F. E. Pettit, 1921-28; George G. Ward, 1929-32; F. E. Pettit, 1933-45; Bryan Parks, 1946-56; J. E. Weeks, 1957-64; Kenneth Beaver, 1965—.

For many years this office has been called County School superintendent.

Coroners

Thomas Guttery (or Guthrie), 1833-36; John Boatner, 1836-40; David Dinsmore, 1840-42; John Barton, 1842-45; D. M. Miller, 1845; Dr. William D. Young, 1845-56; Dr. J. M. Watkins, 1864-66; John Leach, 1866-67; J. W. Pearcey, 1867; John Leach, 1868-70; Dr. J. R. Johnson, 1871-77; Dr. G. F. Smith, 1879-83; G. W. Rice, 1883-91; Wade H. Ross, 1891-1901; Dr. S. A. West, 1902; J. B. DeBoard, 1902-1906; W. J. Plumley, 1908; John Hunnicutt, 1910-14 (seems to have served earlier, also); A. R. Cantrell, 1914; John Hunnicutt, 1916-19; Joe Davis, 1921-24; Walter Elliott, 1924 until his death July 13, 1943; John W. Davis, 1943-48; elected for four years November 7, 1944. C. W. Puckett, 1949-52; E. H. Logan 1953-56; Hix Henson, 1957-60; Ernest H. Logan, 61—.

Commissioners of Roads and Revenues

J. S. Hudson, 1924-40; Watkins Edwards, 1941-43; Will Harper, 1943 (served less than three months); E. T. Hudson, Feb. 22, 1943—Dec. 31, 1945; Cicero Logan, 1946-58; Harold Hefner, 1959—.

Military

Few things in the production of a History are more difficult and disappointing, from the standpoint of reliability and completeness, than war records.

Such records are born in stormy times. Just at the time when memoranda should have been jotted down, the pressure of "panting immediacy" prevented. No farther back than the Spanish-American War, according to a soldier of the time, for instance, doctors who treated military personnel merely noted how many men he had treated for various illnesses. One can imagine, by comparison, the way records were kept during the Civil and preceding wars.

This poor showing of historical data will never be but partially overcome. Much depends upon indirect sources, tradition, word of mouth—sources rapidly dimming out.

Revolutionary and Other Early Military Operations

Elsewhere mention is made of James Kell, Revolutionary War veteran, and his grave marker two miles north of Ellijay. As the federal census of 1840 shows five persons of the County were pensioners for services in the Revolution and "Rebellions," there must be additional graves of such veterans that should be sought out and marked.

On June 1, 1840, the following persons were federal pensioners for "revolutionary and military services," including the War of 1812.

Name	Age	Lived with
Richard Cox	79	
Mary Ellis	84	Elijah Ellis
Ebenezer Fain	78	
James Kell	81	Alex Kell
Enoch Smith	81	Asahel Smith

Enoch Smith died before December 20, 1844; Asahel, prior to March 26, 1841.

We should bear in mind that participants in the Revolution and other early military operations who had died prior to June 1, 1840, are not mentioned in this census. William Reid, buried in the private plot in the Neal Gentry place, a mile south of Ellijay, and said to have been a Revolutionary soldier, was probably one of these. His contemporaries regarded him as a bona fide veteran. And John Tate is also so classed.

War of 1812

June 12, 1812 - December 24, 1814

William May (died at White Path, April 12, 1876) is the only known veteran of this war. He was buried in Ellijay cemetery. He was 88 at his death.

Willaim May was the grandfather of Owen May. William (born in Blount County, Tennessee) served two years during the war of 1812, mainly on the Great Lakes, where he and his comrades once went five days without food and endured many other hardships. He died in an old store house just north of White Path Springs and on the east side of the highway. Older persons can remember this weathered and ancient relic among early White Path structures.

The Creek Campaign 1813-14

The Indians of Gilmer furnished patriots who fought in this war—against other Indians. We know but two who are on the record because they were chiefs. There were probably many more in less commanding position among their people.

Chief White Path
Chief Walking Stick

Muster Roll of 1838

The following is a Muster Roll of Captain John E. Price's company of mounted volunteers of Gilmer County, Georgia, called into the service of the State of Georgia in pursuance of an act of the general assembly for December 26, 1837. These men, apparently, were to serve during the stress of the removal of the Indians from the County, May 25, 1838 to July 12, 1838, inclusive.

Name	Rank
Price, John E.	Captain
Allen, John	First Lieutenant
Cole, William	Second Lieutenant
Berry, William	Ensign
Erwin, William	First Sergeant

Godfrey, William ..... Second Sergeant
Plemmons, Samuel J. ..... Third Sergeant

Privates

John W. Bramblet, Cornelius Cooper, Jonathon Cox, Young Davis, Jonas Denton, William Deal, John Deal, Elijah Ellis, James Evans, William Evans, Mark A. Evins, Rewben Fossitt, Thomas Foster, John Franklin, Moses Greer, Harrison Gidons, George Hefner, Terrell Henson, Christopher Holliway, Alexander Kell, Martin L. Long, Fennel Long, H. F. Price, John Patterson, Hiram Patterson, William Plemmons, Hamilton Ross, Hiram Ross, James Ross, Larkin Smith, Richard Sisson, Amos Sheppard, Peter Sheppard, Robert Smith, John Stephens, Samuel J. Thompson, James Walker, Luther Wallis, John Woodall.*

These "musters," or assemblies, were self-protective steps and the same organization served in the removal of the Indians. Even after that, such meetings and groups were intact. For on April 21, 1849, Boardtown district "duly elected" Nelb Fain "First Lieutenant" and Alford Hall second; J. E. Jarrett, ensign; John N. Moore, Materson Allen, Nelb Fain, William M. Sims, Alford Hall, Gilford Cook, Henry Waller, John Kell, John M. Chapman, J. G. Newberry, J. B. Love, William Godfrey, M. Morgan, F. Chapman, C. Sisson, H. Chapman, Rice Kee, B. Hallford, John Chambers, James A. Espy, R. Sircey, B. H. Wimphery, and L. Waller participating.

Seminole War of 1838

Aug. 11, 1835 to 1842 (Sprogue)

Jesse Charles was "in the Indian wars in Florida."

John Deal (or Dale) was born in 1818. During his last years he was spoken of as receiving a pension for services during Indian wars.

William Allen, served in the Seminole War under Captain James Cody.

James Cody, a captain during the Seminole War.

During a reorganization of forces during the campaign, Elijah W. Chastain, who had raised a company and been elected its captain, became colonel of a regiment. James F. Cody took his place as captain.

Capt. Derrick,** captain of two companies of "Georgia Mounted Volunteers" December 9, 1841, probably had a part.

The Mexican War

May 8, 1846—May 30, 1848

Mexican War data are rare and it has been a severe task to find facts worth recording. Tradition and recollections alone have aided and those meagerly. Although Georgia furnished 1,000 soldiers to the Mexican War, nearly all trace of Gilmer men's part in it has perished.

William B. Sims (a cross-eyed preacher) and Rial Tatum were veterans, probably living far enough north to be classed with some degree of certainty as Gilmer County men (Pickens not being existent at the time). Their names were furnished by Charles E. Stegall of Ellijay, Georgia. Mr. Stegall has also reminded the author of other men mentioned in the History of Pickens County, by Luke E. Tate. Others of these men may have lived on soil then in Gilmer County. Mr. Tate has elaborated sufficiently on this point.

*This list, while "authentic," is probably incomplete. Numerous traditions tell of other men who were pressed into short periods of service during the last months and weeks. David Ralston, Robert Ralston, Abner Champion were said to have been among these.

**Given name probably Joseph.

Mr. Opal Watkins of Ellijay, Georgia, states that James Weaver served in the War between the States, January 16, 1864 to June 2, 1865, in Captain Jonathon H. Hall's 10ih Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers, and in the Mexican War.

Mitch Fain was also in the Mexican War, serving likewise in Indian wars and the Civil War. He lived to be very old and died at the home of his brother-in-law, Christopher M. Briant, in Boardtown district in January 1900. He was buried at Buckhorn Baptist Church graveyard. Thomas Briant and John M. Ward assisted with data on this veteran.

W. L. Plemmons not only helped with data about Mr. Fain but also apprised us that George Kellar was in both the Mexican and Civil Wars, and that Jeptha Scott had a similar record.

T. J. Davis and John Clontz were veterans of the Mexican War.

Frank Williams was a captain in this conflict.

Many of the following men, "Militia and Other Officers of Gilmer County," could have served in the Mexican War, also, as a glance at the dates of their respective commissions reveals.

Militia and Other Officers of Gilmer County

(December 2, 1841—June 21, 1862)*

Name	Rank	Commissioned	District	page
Clontz, Samuel	Captain	October 8, 1842	979	10
Brock, John	Captain	October 8, 1842	958	10
Smith Gideon	1st Lieutenant	October 8, 1842	958	10
Couch, William	2nd Lieutenant	October 8, 1842	958	10
Allen, William	2nd Lieutenant	October 8, 1842	907	10
Johnson, Brit	Ensign	October 8, 1842	907	10
Love, Andrew M.	Captain	November 18, 1842	850	11
Cole, Jacob	1st Lieutenant	November 18, 1842	850	11
Griffith, John M.	2nd Lieutenant	November 18, 1842	850	11
James, John	Captain	August 26, 1843	794	16
West, Eben	1st Lieutenant	August 26, 1843	794	16
Watson, Elijah P.	2nd Lieutenant	August 26, 1843	794	16
Holden, Ozias	Captain	October 2, 1844	864	24
Weaver, James	1st Lieutenant	October 2, 1844	864	24
Sparks, James	2nd Lieutenant	October 2, 1844	864	24
Withrow, Jonathon	Captain	December 16, 1844	958	24
Allen, John	Captain	May 8, 1844	907	21
Brooks, George	Captain	May 5, 1845	1009	27
Fleming, William T.	Captain	August 13, 1845	850	32
Edwards, Allen	1st Lieutenant	August 13, 1845	850	32
Withrow, Josias	Captain	November 17, 1845	958	34
Felmet, W. G.	Captain	March 24, 1846	932	37
Osborne, J. P.	1st Lieutenant	March 24, 1846	932	37
Cordell, J.	2nd Lieutenant	March 24, 1846	932	37
Blackman, James	1st Lieutenant	October 14, 1846	794	44
Kelly, Andrew	2nd Lieutenant	October 14, 1846	794	44
Johnson, Joseph	1st Lieutenant	November 23, 1846	980	46
Pain, Josiah	2nd Lieutenant	November 23, 1846	980	46

*From Georgia Military Records (1841-1861).

Name	Rank	Commissioned	District	page
Galloway, H. H.	Ensign	November 23, 1846	980	46
Cole, John P.	Captain	February 5, 1847	850	47
Rector, Richard	1st Lieutenant	February 5, 1847	850	47
Pearcy, Jacob W.	2nd Lieutenant	Feb. 5, 1847	850	47
Brinegor, P. E.	Ensign	Feb. 5, 1847	850	47
Godsey, W. F.	1st Lieutenant	May 26, 1847	850	50
Mathews, W. M.	Captain	Nov. 20, 1847	864	55
Newbury, J. C.	2nd Lieutenant	Nov. 20, 1847	864	55
Deman, John T.	Colonel	Jan. 31, 1848	864	56, 60
87th Regiment				
Smith, William S.	Major	Jan. 31, 1848	864	56, 60
2nd Battalion				
Newbury, Joshua A.	Captain	March 10, 1848	907	57
Stevens, Jeptha P.	Major	June 29, 1835	907	63
195th Battalion				
Holloway, Richard	1st Lieutenant	May 29, 1848	907	65
Powers, James	2nd Lieutenant	May 29, 1848	907	65
Tucker, Luallen	Ensign	May 29, 1848	907	65
Bates, James M.	1st Lieutenant	June 7, 1848	932	66
Worley, Henry	1st Lieutenant	July 13, 1848	1009	67
Moreland, Andrew J.	2nd Lieutenant	July 13, 1848	1009	67
Davis, Washburn	1st Lieutenant	Aug. 28, 1848	864	68
Johnson, John T.	Captain	Sept. 29, 1848	1029	69
Withrow, James	1st Lieutenant	Sept. 29, 1848	1029	69
Ballew, Alfred	2nd Lieutenant	Sept. 29, 1848	1029	69
Shuler, George	Ensign	Sept. 29, 1848	1029	69
Wheeler, Absalom	2nd Lieutenant	Dec. 27, 1848	850	71
Cox, Peter	Ensign	Dec. 27, 1848	850	71
Moore, Thomas E.	Captain	May 2, 1849	794	73
Morrison, A. R.	1st Lieutenant	May 2, 1849	794	73
Collins, Thomas	2nd Lieutenant	May 2, 1849	794	73
Steel, James	Captaiin	May 2, 1849	1035	73
Langley, Georgia	1st Lieutenant	May 2, 1849	1035	73
Kelly, J.	2nd Lieutenant	May 2, 1849	1035	73
Fain, N. N.	1st Lieutenant	May 19, 1849	907	94
Hall, Alfred	2nd Lieutenant	May 19, 1849	907	74
Jarrett, J. E.	Ensign	May 19, 1849	907	74
Roper, William N.	Captain	August 31, 1849	1036	77
Morrison, Joseph	1st Lieutenant	August 31, 1849	1036	77
Walker, John P.	2nd Lieutenant	August 31, 1849	1036	77
Jones, John C.	Ensign	August 31, 1849	1036	77
Simmons, Irwin	Ensign	August 31, 1849	864	77
Batson, Joseph	Captain	November 24, 1849	932	79
McCoy, Henry	Captain	April 1, 1850	979	80
Guess, William J.	Captain	April 1, 1850	1049	81
Brindon, Henry	Captain	June 25, 1850	1047	81
Fowler, P.	Captain	October 18, 1851	1035	87
Kelly, W.	1st Lieutenant	October 18, 1851	1035	87
Langley, B.	2nd Lieutenant	October 18, 1851	1035	87
Moore, Pinckney	1st Lieutenant	October 18, 1851	907	87
Paterson, Samuel	2nd Lieutenant	October 18, 1851	907	87
Grant, William	Ensign	October 18, 1851	907	87
Simmons, Erwin	1st Lieutenant	August 27, 1852	864	89
Newberry, George	2nd Lieutenant	August 27, 1852	864	89
Austin, Michael	Ensign	August 27, 1852	864	89

Name	Rank	Commissioned	District	page
Merrill, William	Captain	May 9, 1855	1047	95
Ely, Levi W.	1st Lieutenant	May 9, 1855	1047	95
Pearcy, J. W.	Colonel	March 9, 1861	87th Regiment	124

In 1861, T. R. R. Cobb's "Invincibles" (from Gilmer) were cooperating with Carroll County men in the formation of the 87th Regiment.

The 12th Division, 1st Brigade, was composed (in addition to Gilmer men) of recruits from Bartow, Cherokee, Gordon, Fannin, Whitfield, Catoosa, Pickens, and Milton counties.

Consider, further, the personnel of Regiment 87. While the post office address of J. W. Pearcy, colonel, is given as Ellijay (850 militia district) it is doubtful if any of the men lived in the village of Ellijay. Pearcy received his commission March 9, 1861. Others listed under Ellijay address (but as hailing from Tails Creek, 1009 district) were A. R. Foot, captain; J. Quarles, first lieutenant; W. W. Elder, second lieutenant; Lewis Watson, ensign. Their several commissions were issued May 9. 1861. Men of the regiment that had a Mountain-town (958 district) post office address were: L. H. Sharp, captain; E. P. Sharp, first lieutenant; J. Goldsmith, second lieutenant; William Ash, ensign. Their several commissions were issued March 27, 1861.

There was also a company called the "Gilmer Boys," with Ellijay address. These men evidently lived in and around the town of Ellijay in Ellijay district. Officers were: W. R. Welch, captain; W. P. Milton, first lieutenant; Dr. M. West, second lieutenant; S. B. May, ensign, with their several commissions issued May 17, 1861.

There was a group listed as living in Leaches (1035 district) but with Ellijay addresses, however. They held an election on May 11, 1861, and participants were John Leach, John Earnes, David Beal (this trio being election managers). Elisha Gragg, John L. Manning, Larry Bryant, William Webb, John Goble, J. T. Bagwell, William Young, William Phipps, A. G. Franklin, Joseph O. Bryant, E. M. Young, Isaiah Kell, James Keener, James K. Waldrop, William Branum, Lock Langley, W. D. Goble, Isaac Honeycutt, E. M. Tracly, William lieutenant; Andrew S. Holloway, second lieutenant; Rufus G. Moore, ensign. Keener, R. O. Bryant, John D. Smith, John Young, E. Kell, Baylis Bramlett, James W. Darnell, James Goble. The results of the election were: James Kite, captain; Elie M. Young, first lieutenant; Anderson G. Franklin, second lieutenant, John Corbin, third lieutenant. In the issue of commissions (June 3, 1861), however, J. Gold is mentioned as ensign and Corbin is not named.

"The Joe Brown Boys" were enrolled from Pierceville (a post office several miles over in Fannin county). As there is (at the adjacent northern extreme of Gilmer County) an open route for communication and cooperation, it is a reasonable inference that this was a joint company of men from both Gilmer and Fannin Counties. The official personnel (to whom commissions were issued June 15, 1861) was: John D. Hyde, captain; John W. Johnson, first lieutenant; Wilson N. Crawford, second lieutenant; James E. Crawford, ensign.

On June 22, 1861, commissions were issued to Town Creek (1135 district) officers: Francis M. Kitchens captain; Benjamin J. Erwin, first lieutenant; Alpheus W. Shepperd, second lieutenant; Andrew J. Langley, ensign. These men appear to have belonged to the "Brown Boys" also.

On July 4, 1861 commissions were issued to men listed from Tails Creek district and probably likewise of the Brown Company. These officers were: Wiley W. Elder, captain; William R. Jenkins second lieutenant.

On the 22nd of June 1861, Cartecay district officers (with address given Ellijay) commissioned were James M. Bates, captain; J. R. Coggins, first lieutenant; G. W. Mulkey, second lieutenant; W. E. Mulkey, ensign. Late the same year, John R. Rolston was also an ensign in the same district. In May 1862 William Kimsey, with about fifty men on his roil, was captain there.

Peter F. Cannon was commissioned a major of 87th regiment, Georgia Militia, June 22, 1861, his address being also given as Ellijay.

Another company was known as the "Gilmer Volunteers," with officers, commissioned July 20, 1861: William Jones, captain; Henry Woodring, first lieutenant; Andrew S. Holloway, second lieutenant; Rufus G. Moore, ensign.

August 13, 1861, saw men (address given as simply Town Creek), as follows, commissioned: J. P. Cobb, captain: Julius Pickett, first lieutenant; A. J. Langley, second lieutenant; R. O. Bryant, ensign.

The "Gilmer Independents" was a name given a company officered by men with Ellijay addresses (commissioned August 17, 1861), as follows: W. C. Bearden, captain; Peter F. Cannon, first lieutenant; Benton Chastain second lieutenant; Joseph Chadwick, ensign.

August 24, 1861, two other officers (address, Ellijay) were commissioned: Asa R. Griffith, second lieutenant; Robert M. Craigo, ensign.

Leaches (district 1035) furnished with Ellijay address and commissioned August 16, 1861—D. D. Honeycutt captain; T. T. Bagwell, ensign.

"Regiment 87, Battalion 2, contained S. F. Williams, who had an Ellijay address and was commissioned September 11, 1861) a major.

Tails Creek (district 1009) furnished (with Ellijay addresses) officers, commissioned September 21, 1861: J. D. Hays, captain; W. J. Wilson, first lieutenant; Jonathon Cowart, second lieutenant; B. F. Hays ensign.

Cherry Log district, with Ellijay post office, furnished a company with officers commissioned September 28, 1861: John Carpenter, captain; H. H. Flinn, first lieutenant; O. L. Searcy, second lieutenant; D. Whitener, ensign.

On October 7, 1861 officers with Ellijay post office were commissioned for a company known as the "Mountain Rangers," as follows, B. T. Chastain, captain; B. C. West, first lieutenant; W. D. Sparks, second lieutenant; William E. Mulkey, ensign.

On October 5, 1861, Ball Ground district—Ellijay post office—furnished officers who that day received commissions: M. C. Clark, captain; M. D. Allen, first lieutenant; J. Burrell, second lieutenant; M. V. Teem, ensign.

On October 13, 1861, Tickanetly district (864th, Ellijay post office) furnished a company—that day commissioned and officered: J. A. Greer, captain; W. L. Chastain, first lieutenant; S. A. Ralston, second lieutenant; Stephen Clayton, ensign.

November 23, 1861, Mountaintown district (958, Ellijay post office) furnished a company with the following official personnel: Solomon Sumner, captain; J. T. Douglass, second lieutenant; William Cole, ensign.

On December 14, 1861, James R. Redmond was commissioned first lieutenant from Cartecay district (932), Cartecay post office.

On October 17, 1861, a company named "Gilmer Tigers" had an officialdom commissioned (and listed as having Screven as their post office), a point adjoining Camp Harrison in south Georgia, to which these Gilmer men were sent. Benton F. Chastain became a lieutenant there December 10, 1861. Other officers were: Jack W. Pearcy, captain; F. M. Kitchener, second lieutenant; John P. Cole, ensign.

There was also, for some reason, a company called the "Bartow Boys." It should be borne in mind that this name was in honor of an individual patriot named Bartow, and had no reference to the county of Bartow, which at that time was called Cass. This company had officials with Ellijay addresses, but their homes were in Boardtown and Cherry Log districts. Their officers (commissioned October 19, 1861) were: Bradley Hallford, captain; William D. Jarrett, first lieutenant; William Guess, second lieutenant; Charles Tipton, ensign.

Another company was called the "Gilmer Lions." The address of officers is listed Ellijay. The men receiving commissions, March 4, 1862, were: B. J. Brown, captain; J. R. Redmond, first lieutenant; James M. Bates, second lieutenant, Ben C. West, ensign.

On March 22, 1862, Mountaintown officers were commissioned (addresses, Mountaintown): S. M. Plemmons, first lieutenant; James Pence, second lieutenant.

On March 22, 1862, a list of officers was commissioned from Cartecay district—Ellijay post office—with personnel as follows: William M. Kimsey, captain; H. O. Ward, first lieutenant; J. P. Dean, second lieutenant; J. T. Willingham, ensign.

On June 7, 1862, Boardtown district furnished officers, that data commissioned, Ellijay addresses, as follows: Isaiah Pless, captain; Thomas W. Dalton, first lieutenant, Bradley Hallford, second lieutenant; Elbert Searcey, ensign.

The Civil War

April 12, 1861 - April 9, 1865

Lists of Confederate veterans are incomplete and sometimes otherwise unsatisfactory. Even bare lists of Gilmer men who enlisted in Confederate and Union armies are not available. No public official or private citizen or organization anywhere seems to possess such lists. Similarity and incompleteness of names adds to the confusion.

The roster hereafter offered does not contain, for example, Confederates, John W. Abercrombie, Alfred R. Adams, Charley Sisson (musician, killed in action), Ira Sisson, his brother, all of whom enlisted from Gilmer County. Joseph Branch Tanner, once a prominent citizen and land owner of Cherry Log district, was a Confederate veteran but enlisted somewhere else. "Mix" Moreland also belongs on it, I am told.

It seems a considerable number of men enlisted in 11th Georgia Regiment, Volunteer Infantry, Company F, and 39th Georgia, Company F, Captain Frank Harris's Gilmer command. Harris lived in Cherry Log district.

It is no easy task to separate home guards from men who saw action farther afield. But it appears special companies were formed to "suppress insurrection, to repel invasion and defend the state in time of war." Some of this activity took place soon after the war started, and no doubt continued—with heightened intensity early in 1864 when the state was invaded in large force.

Soon after union armies began taking over near-border cities such as Cleveland, Tennessee, small detachments of their soldiery began invading the County or camping for more or less long periods near its border. But the rough, narrow, toilsome routes (easily defended) by which they came forbade anything resembling the mass movements that transpired far north, west, and south of Gilmer.

A camp of union soldiers was for quite a while maintained on Noontootley Creek, near the Gilmer line, probably to suppress "insurrection" or clashes

between the natives (much divided in their respective sympathies with the armies pitted against each other in the distant fields). Gilmer County courthouse is said to have been used as a quartering place for invaders, who were often themselves native, and knew the country, or were informed and guided about by local people that enlisted with them, escaped to them, or joined purpose with them as soon as they came in. Gilmer was on the very edge and was part of the edge of the "Yankee Section" of the Southern highlands.

Military organization was inherited by men of special duty. For Gilmer was designated as "41st military district," or part of such. As early as October 30, 1861, Joseph Pickett had taken the oath of captain in this organization. Asa R. Griffith, for part of the time, was in the "Georgia Militia." It appears that men in militia, if bona fide, were not subject to the general conscription law that was about to be enforced in May 1862.

Gilmer men were formed into "Twelfth Division, First Brigade," and officered by men commissioned as follows:

West, D. M., Colonel, December 13, 1863, Ellijay.

Walker, John M., (Surgeon), January 7, 1863.

Greer, John W., (Commissary), January 7, 1863.

We also find a record of a regiment that appears to have been Georgia Militia and was formed jointly with Pickens County. Commissions were issued March 23rd, 1864 to Captains James G. Inlow, Thomas Geraigan, James V. Nelson, and John Pettit. First lieutenants were William Jones, James H. Rogers, Julius Pickett, James Dunn. Second lieutenants were G. A. Roberts. A. C. Osborn, William Simmons, John Martin; Third, D. A. Smith, Andrew Rore, Henry Teague, H. K. Evans; Fourth, Asa R. Griffith, J. C. Ingram, Robert O. Bryant, R. L. Johnson. These men were evidently from various districts.

In view of all this confusion and disheartening maze and yawning loss of record, we can offer our roster of Confederate veterans only with hesitancy and apologies. Even these names have been gleaned from a mutilated, yellowed old record, some of it one place, some another. The names have been carefully checked and arranged.

This list, courteously furnished by Willard C. Holden, ordinary of Gilmer County, on June 20, 1935, contains a few names gathered from researches of the writer. J. R. Ray was the only remaining Confederate veteran. He belonged to Company H, First Georgia Regiment, and his death occurred August 23, 1938, at the age of 93.

H. H. Allen, H. M. Anderson, W. H. Atkins, H. E. Baber, Will Banks, J. R. Bates, R. G. Bearden, (Dick and "Rol" Bearden both said to belong); J. H. Bennett, M. C. Blankinship, Cornelius Bowman (may have enlisted in Gordon county); J. C. Bramlett, R. Brown, David Briant, Jacob Briant, M. C. Briant, E. Buffington, Joseph Call, James S. Callahan, J. H. Carter, James C. Chadwick, B. G. Charles, G. W. Clark, C. M. Coffee, M. L. Conner, Leander Corbin, Pete Corbin, Henry Cordell, A. J. Cornett, R. M. Craigo, J. W. Crump, Franklin Davis, Joseph Davis, W. A. DeBord, William J. Defoor, Joseph Dillingham, A. B. Dover, D. H. Dover, (born Aug. 6, 1834; died Nov. 23, 1912. Vols. C. S. A.); D. M. Dover, W. H. Eller, B. F. Ellington.

William Ellington II, Lukey Elliott, Joseph Elrod, Sam Evans, Newton Fain, (killed July 3, 1863, at Gettysburg, Pa., and was buried in the National cemetery there); J. W. Fisher, C. H. Foote, E. T. Foote, J. J. Forrester, H. W. Freeman, A. L. Goble, D. J. Godsey, L. D. Grace, (Dow); G. W. Greenway, M. B. Greer, William Greer, Thomas F. Grier, Capt.; J. H. Griggs, James A. Gudger, William Hall, Captain Bradley Hallford, Jesse T. Harper, Lindsey

Harper, Captain Frank Harris, W. G. Harris, (Glover), died 3-25-1915; H. L. Harrison, G. W. Heath, C. B. Henderson, George Hice, Waitzel Hice, J. M. Higgins, J. P. Hill, Seaborn Hill, T. H. Hollifield, John Holt, died while war was in progress; L. B. Holt, John Hunnicutt, Len Hyde, Lawson Ingram, William M. Jackson, J. S. James, W. H. James, Wesley Jameson, P. F. C. (Enlisted Sept. 5, 1863. Killed at Kennesaw Mountain, June 19, 1864); W. R. Jenkins, Jack Jones, J. V. Kenner. C. J. Kell, M. V. Kell, W. A. Kell, John Lawing, John E. Ledford, B. A. Logan, J. C. Long, L. M. Long, R. G. Long.

T. J. Long, William Long, Nathan Lowe, L. T. Marr, P. P. Martin, W. P. Mathis, Lt. Simon Bolivar May, M. K. McClure, J. F. McGill, Mealor, (spouse, Margaret); H. P. Medaris, Daniel Miller, J. C. Miller, P. M. Miller, P. H. Milton, David Milton, Hubbard Moore, (or E. H.) Co. F 11th Ga., C. S. A.; John B. Moore, R. G. Moore, Dudley Moreland, W. E. Moreland, John Mulkey, (died 4-5-1898); G. W. Mulkey, J. J. Newberry, Manson Newton, William T. Nicholson, N. C. Norris, J. M. Northcutt, J. B. (or C.) Osborn, N. L. Osborn, James Painter, W. S. Painter, Wiley Pankey, (died July 17, 1932); James W. Parker, David C. Parks, (died July 23, 1924) J. M. Parks, T. M. Parks, W. B. Parks, George Penland, (killed in action, Oct. 15, 1862); James H. Penland, Julius Pickett, F. M. Pierce, (died June 9, 1935); J. S. Plemmons, Capt. Isaiah Pless, L. M. Plemmons, R. C Pressly, O. B. Price, M. R. Pritchett, W. T. C. Quillian, (Colquitt), Co. A, 65 Reg.; I. W. Rackley, S. A. Ralston, G. H. Randell, J. R. Ray, L. D. Rogers.

T. L. Rogers, Elijah Russell, John Russell, Will Sawyer, O. L. Searcey, James Seller, L. H. Sharp, J .W. Sheperd, Silas Silvers, E. P. Sisson, Joe Sitten, Cal Sluder, L. M. Smith, R. Lee Smith, William Southern, M. T. Southerland, E. C. Stamey, W. J. Starks. W. M. Stokes, D. M. Stover, John L. Stover, G. W. Strickland, L. D. Strickland, R. L. Swafford, M. S. Swann, Jonathon Tabor, T. W. Tabor, N. T. Tabor, (Captain Company K, General Young's Battalion); A. W. Tankersley, F. M. Teague, (died Aug. 1, 1917); F. B. Teem, W. J. Terry, Samuel Tucker, J. M. Turner, A. M. Vick, I. N. Walker, John M. Ward, Uriah Waldon, E. W. Watkins, Joshua Watkins, Fate Weaver, (initials probably H. L.); H. T. Weaver, Maj. W. R. Welch, J. F. M. West, S. H. West J. C. Whisenant, Major Frank Williams, J. F. Williams, William Wood, W. C. Woodward, Ves Worley, Reuben Wright, John Young, T. A. Young.

All told, Gilmer County furnished the Southern army, besides several men whose superiority is shown with their names and other mention of them, some 10 captains, and about 1,000 men of the ranks. A good while preceding the end of the Civil War, Colonel Samuel M. Ralston's battalion was stationed in Gilmer County.

But the service of a great majority of our men was scattered and much farther afield. Gilmer men fought as far north as Pennsylvania, in Virginia, and the battle of Atlanta. They battled along navigable rivers and on the open seas.

In cases men have been added to the official list found in Gilmer courthouse if their names were called to my attention and proof of their service presented along with their names, in time.

Besides, as already revealed, there was little assurance, in view of the condition of the official record, that it would be complete beyond a mere "passing" rate.

The Union Side During the Civil War

To some, it may seem rather odd to find in a Georgia history a list of Union soldiers. But here is the attempt. Confederate sympathizers referred to

these people by the grossly inelegant title of "hogbacks." That was in the heat of conflict, now long past, and generations ago.

After the Union army began spreading over east Tennessee as far south as Knoxville, it became a feat of no great difficulty for men bent upon crossing a virtually wide open; or at best poorly patrolled and weakly defended) state line to slip away to the Union army, which welcomed their offer to join cause with it.

A case of this slipping off was related by Ben Sitten. About 27 men in the western part of the County met by appointment one morning in the mountains. As a single party, the group, according to Ben Sitten, was led by Ves Worley, perhaps as a guide. For Mr. Worley, also according to Mr. Sitten, was in the Confederate army, and will be found in our list of Confederate veterans.

Their purpose was to follow the mountain trails north by west about 50 miles to Calhoun, Tenn. When they reached the Hiwassee river, a stream that flows just south of this village, they signalled across to Yankees on guard on the north side. The Yankees' boats promptly shot out from their bank of the stream and made their way across for the men.

But some recruiting for the Northern army was actually done in Gilmer County. A year or so after the Civil War began, the United States flag was raised at ceremonies at old Macedonia Baptist church in Tickanetley district. With the fervor of a revivalist, those in charge of the meeting invited the young men to come forward and enroll for the defense of the Union. Jim Ellis and Henry Cochran, his son-in-law, then and there enlisted. Lawrence L. Stanley, native of Fannin county, furnished this information, together with the data immediately following.

Rachel Minerva Ellis, who became the wife of David A. Stanley and the grandmother of Lawrence L. Stanley, was present that day. This was the first time she had ever seen a United States flag.

At about the time Knoxville fell, small companies of Union men began infiltrating Gilmer from time to time from the north. But most Union activities were undoubtedly carried on by native people in sympathy with the North. The way into central northern Georgia (east of the Cohutta mountains) was extremely difficult, being by trackless forest or tortuous trails. Any excess of supplies beyond bare personal equipment and food supply was out of the question. After Union armies reached Cleveland, it was possible to approach by a trail up Ocoee river. But this was a wild and extremely rough, tortuous route for the hardiest wagon. Pass along that charming and scenic gorge today and try to imagine what it was 120 years ago.

Lloyd Henson properly belongs in lists of both Confederate and Union soldiers. For his military experience was unique. He entered the Confederate ranks and served faithfully two years. But abuse by a petty Confederate officer, he said in his time, changed the picture.

Mr. Henson was driving a dirt wagon on an excavation job. The officer in giving orders where and how to dump the dirt, did not make himself clear. Mr. Henson asked him to make the matter clearer. Instead of doing that, Mr. Henson further declared, he shouted in a rage,

"I'll beat you with this blacksnake whip!" which he had in his hand.

Mr. Henson grabbed his pistol from his wagon seat and told the officer, "Stand back or I'll kill you!"

A flash later, feeling fairly sure his discipline would be death, he leaped from his wagon and fled to the Union army.

Union Soldiers

Jason Akins, Jasper Akins, William R. Allen, Jim Cochran, Monroe Defoor, Jack Dodd, John W. Duckett, James Ellis, Allen Fendley, James H. Frady, Corbin Goble, Henry Goble, Bill Guess, Captain John Hatley, Lloyd Henson, Jesse Holden, Jasper L. Holt, (Co. A, Tenn. Mounted Infantry); John D. Howell, (?); Asbury James, Thomas James, Bill Jenkens, Harvey Johnson, John Jones, William Joyce, Larkin Kennemur, Burl Key, (?); Thomas Lunsford, Robert Marshall, Marion Mullinax, A. E. Newberry, (died 1924); Steve Newberry, Blye Osborn, (part Indian); Patterson, "Son" (killed in action); Dred Pelfrey, Marshall Powell, Dallis Ralston, William D. Ralston, (10th Tenn Calvalry, Co. H. Born 3-14-1845, died 6-23-1923); Mungin Sheldon, Cal Sluder, (also listed with Confederates); John Sluder, Leander Sluder, Nathaniel Smith, Ike Stone, Capt. Martin Teem, Jim Thompson, John Thompson, D. B. Vandegriff, A. L. Weaver, A. S. Weaver, Bill Weaver, Henry Weaver, James Marion Weaver, Jasper Weaver, John W. Weaver, Alf Young.

Jim Jones is described as "doubtful." I have put a question mark after John D. Howell. But he was my uncle, and was born and brought up in the state of Indiana, (as I recall from hearing older people talk) and entered the Union Army there, not coming South until the war was over.

Doubt as to Larkin Kennemur exists; but, as this is slight, I have placed him in the list. Lloyd Henson was for two years in the Confederate army. He then went to the Union ranks.

Valued consultants in compiling this list have been James L. Weaver, whose father and grandfather were both in the Union army, and Wiley Plemmons, whose father-in-law was likewise in it.

The Spanish-American War

April 25, 1898 — Aug. 12, 1898

The Spanish-American war was quite minor compared with the Civil War and World War. It did not last long. No conscription law was invoked. A small army, 125,000 volunteers, was all the initial force that was asked for its prosecution. A prompt response throughout the nation quickly met this call. A small quota like this left tiny political subdivisions like counties scarcely a place in the picture. They had nothing impressive to report.

Ed Greer, some years deceased, entered the early period. He volunteered, however, from the state of Arkansas, where he was a member of the State Guards 1893-1898. Mr. Greer is not related to the other Greers of the County. He was a son of Rev. Samuel Greer of Scotch descent. James Greer, Ed's grandfather, was a native of Scotland. Ed Greer (whose mother was a Stewart) once lived in Boardtown district and attended school in a house located near the home of Mrs. Lou Plemmons and later blown away in a hurricane.

Soon after the declaration of the war against Spain in the spring of 1898 the Ellijay Courier-Sentinel stated that J. K. Greer and Sam Evans "joined the army in the war against Spain." They are recorded as "second and third recruits" from the County.

On July 14, 1898, J. A. Warlick, W. F. Long, Cliff Barnes, Will McGill, Juan Hipp, Sam Ingle, Pink Langley joined company K of the United States Army in the war against Spain. "Gilmer already has 24 men ready for similar service."

August 4, the same year, Albert L. Greer also enlisted.

William A. Whitener, representative-elect of Gilmer County when he died Jan. 8, 1947, was a Spanish-American war veteran. Mr. Whitener was a native of Gilmer.

In the spring of 1899 the Ellijay Courier-Sentinel notes that "Will McGill has been released from the army. He and Sam Evans were in the 3rd U. S. Volunteers." Tolbert Wheeler McFarlin served in the 4th Tenn. Volunteers. L. L. Woody is also said to have served in the same war. His death at Ellijay was announced Feb. 24, 1951. He had lived at Ellijay since 1937.

For several years after the Spanish-American War the United States recruited soldiers to serve in capacities such as the Moro insurrection in the Philippine islands. These were aftermaths and involvements of the war itself.

On Nov. 11, 1901, for instance, the Federal Government was maintaining a recruiting office in the old Teem hotel which stood about where the modern Ellijay drug store in Ellijay is located now. For on that day G. C. Smith and his brother J. H. Smith enlisted for service in the Philippine islands. M. L., another brother, and Chris Plemmons enlisted three months later at Rome. Two of these young men, at least, went to the Philippines. James Parks was in the islands at that time. G. C. Smith recalls meeting Parks there once. This James Parks, brother to G. C. of Boardtown, died at Calhoun March 21, 1954.

Georgia, according to population, was said to have led the Union in volunteers for this conflict, having furnished three regiments; while a fourth, "Ray's Immunes," was reported as "mostly Georgians." The 29th, which served in the Philippines, was "almost entirely Georgians."

The First World War

March 12, 1917 - Nov. 11, 1918

The records of the World War are the best, most modernly kept of those in the Military Department of Georgia. They are the only ones with names listed by counties and really available.

As a result we are able to append a fairly complete list of Gilmer veterans of this war. However, I believe it contains errors. But I copied the list just as it was. We mean no slight or anything personal if some bona fide veteran is omitted. He may not have appeared in the original record, or it might be an unintentional mistake, on my part, in copying. But I have been very careful. Three men, Sam Withrow, Andrew Withrow and Sim Jackson, were Negroes.

Army

Adams, John C.
Allen, Henry C.
Allen, Sidney C.
Anderson, Crawford C.
Anderson, Efford E.
Anderson, James T.
Anderson, Jesse W.
Anderson, Samuel E.
Ayers, Arvil C .
Ballew, Lafayette L.
Barnes, Cleveland A.
Barnes, Jerome W.
Barnes, Levi M.
Barnes, Martin M.
Barnes, Nathaniel
Bearden, Joseph L
Bearden, Lawrence
Bearden, Walton R.
Beavers, Charlie
Boatright, John C.
Boen, Clifford M.
Bramlett, Milton
Brantley, Terrance C.
Burgess, Glenn L.
Cantrell, Benjamin Jeff
Cantrell, David A.
Carter, Jesse W.
Carter, Will
Chadwick, Joseph F.
Cobb, Homer R.
Coffee, Alonzo
Cook, William T.
Corbin, Virgil L.
Cornwell, William F.
Craig, Herschel C.
Crook, Chas. C.

Crook, Henry
Crump, James W. S.
Crump, John W. L.
Davis, Clifford D.
Davis, George W.
Davis, Harley
Davis, John
Davis, John Wesley
Davis, Richard C.
Defoor, George
Derden, James F.
Derden, Henry W
Dobbs, Carl Lester
Dodson, William D.
Dover, William C.
Dover, Alfred D.
Dyer, Charley
Dyer, Kimsey
Ellington, Millard Duvall
Ellis, Albert G.
Estep, Fletues
Fain, James A.
Farist, Tandy P.
Flannigan, William L.
Fowler, Lester
Garland, Ples H.
Garner, Roy
Gibbs, William J.
Godfrey, Luther
Griffith, Olin
Hamby, Francis
Harper, Clarence H.
Harper, John
Harris, Andrew
Hensley, Arthur J.
Henson, Everett
Henson, Robert
Ingle, James B.
Jackson, Sim
James, James F.
James, Wm. B.
Jones, James Claude
Jones, Willie
Johnson, William A.
Kincaid, Oscar F.
Kirby, James Waldo
Langley, David M.
Lanning, Andrew T.
Leatherwood, Hymon
Legg, Joseph V.
Long, Levi
Lovelace, Clarence E.
McArthur, Edward H.
McClure, Augustus E.
McClure, John C.
McClure, Mantley A.
Martin, Jesse L.
Martin, Joe K.
Mashburn, Gordon
Moore, Glen Lewis
Mulkey, Horace S.
Nix, Herbert
Pankey, Oscar
Page, Horace H.
Parks, Jack L.
Parks, Robert L.
Payne, Howell C.
Pence, Horace E.
Perry, Howard
Pettit, Butler
Pinson, Harley W.
Plemmons, France B.
Ralston, Ben
Ralston, Robert B.
Ray, Harley W.
Ray, James
Ray, Newton F.
Reece, Andrew P.
Reed, Berrie
Respass, Jim
Rice, Thomas W.
Rodgers, Claud
Rogers, Lewis M.
Simmons, Charlie T.
Sisson, Charlie F.
Sisson, Manuel
Smith, Clarence
Smith, Harley
Smith, Henry M.
Southern, Leslie M.
Southern, Oliver P.
Stewart, Louis C.
Stewart, William C.
Stone, Joseph Franklyn
Swann, James S.
Sutton, John R.
Tankersley, Grover C.
Vick, Henry A.
Walker, Ernest F.
Walker, Henry P.
Waters, Dock
Watkins, Jas. W.
Watkins, Oscar G.
Weaver, John Newton
Webb, James C.
West, Huston
Whitaker, David
Whitaker, Robert S.
Wilcher, Lessie
Wilson, John
Withrow, Andrew

Henson, Tom
Hice, Andrew T.
Hipp, Charles B.
Holden, Farish C.
Holden, Robert L.
Holt, Hines F.
Holt, Robert C.
Hudson, Ernest T.
Hudson, Raymond G.
Withrow, George
Withrow, John
Woodring, Lee T.
Woods, Claude E.
Woodward, Joseph H.
Wright, Charley L.
Wright, Fonzey V.
Wright, Jasper N.
Wright, William T., Jr.

Army Officers—Rank

Anderson, Jesse Walter, Capt.
Chadwick, Floyd S. — 2nd Lieut.
Cox, Clarence G. — 1st Lieut.
Ellington, Frank — 2nd Lieut.
Fagan, Herbert T. — 1st Lieut.
Ray, O'Glen — 1st Lieut.
Shippen, Frank Truman — 2nd Lieut.
Walker, Clarence Newton — 1st Lieut.

Deceased of Army

Boen, William C.
Cochran, Ira B.
Davis, Teasley
Elliott, Jimmie D.
Findley, Lenard J.
Forrester, Orvill C.
Hensley, Thomas C.
Henson, Wiley J.
Holt, Frank
Kelby, Amos V.
Martin, Aubrey R.
Mealer, Elijah
Newberry, Lester
Parks, Richard
Parks, Samuel L.
Simmons, Louis P.
Weaver, Elbert F.

Navy

Chapman, Arthur Jackson
Clonts, Amburs
Cole, Sim
Corbin, Walter Clayton
Crook, Clyde Mashburn
Davis, Horace Milton
Eller, Steve Clay
Ellis, William Joseph
Gibson, Thomas Jefferson
Harper, Charley M.
Kimzey, John Wiley
Pritchett, Taylor Jefferson
Ralston, Estes Homer
Simmons, Thomas G.
Swann, Arvil Tatum
Whitaker, Frank Cecil
Wright, Joe William

All told, our contribution to the World War was some 200 men—seventeen of whom were killed or became ill and died in the service.

World War II

I got a first draft of those serving in this war. Then, after arranging these in alphabetical order, I attempted to check with the original list. But the original rolls were not available either at Ellijay or Atlanta.

Korean War

I do not have sufficient data or room for this conflict.

Teacher Training

Around the opening of the 1890s a few thoughtful people began to see the importance of better teaching training in Gilmer County. Teachers failing to attend were supposed to be fined, or excused if their absence warranted.

It held sessions Saturday afternoons only. Then came, in 1892, a whole day once a month, this policy continuing for a year or more "during school terms." After much discussion and deliberation the old practice was abandoned for a five-day "institute," to meet in a summer session. These began to meet in 1893, the Ellijay Seminary assuming much of the responsible leadership.

As early as 1896 a tri-county teachers institute, with Gilmer participating, met at Jasper. Such meetings came the first week in July, a fairly hard time for part-time farmer teachers; and trial for women teachers to provide the special clothes they considered needful. Everybody met in general assembly for all discussions. Nearly everybody was afraid of being "called on," and mighty little work (except on a sponge basis) accomplished.

However, we got some inspiration and a consciousness of our need for better training, perhaps we learned a little more social grace and cemented friendships by such meetings. But the big wheel was the "expert," or honor guest of the occasion.

About 1916, these efforts, having materially advanced in techniques and subject matter, began adding co-directors also. Miss Celeste Parrish was credited with being a power in this progressive step. Miss Parrish was of phenomenal memory, had risen from humble beginnings to eminence. Teachers now began to become participants instead of timid spectators. And the period of training lasted two weeks, several counties having a part in it.

This continued until 1923, when the school advanced to a length of four weeks; later it became five.

In the beginning such a school was little more than a one-man or, at most, a few-teacher affair. These led or all but monopolized all discussions. Among old-time teachers who took leading parts were Professor Shields; Professor Hanley of the Seminary, where for long the sessions were held; Miss Mary Kirby; M. C. Briant and his sons, Victor and Tobe.

Mr. Pitts, I. A. Branham, who, as I believe, conducted an institute in the M. E. Church South; Ernest, Branson, Ballard, B. F. Gaillard were among the "experts."

Near 1921 Sam Penland, state representative from Gilmer County, sponsored a bill in the Georgia Legislature to have the state adopt an Ellijay Summer School for Teachers as the "13th child" of the Georgia summer school family. It was to rank on par with the district agricultural college summer schools.

In the conduct of the school the policy finally became an emphasis upon the importance and activity of the teacher rather than of a conductor who "knew everything." Whereas the school was quite a lark and attractive to those who were merely interested in social diversion, it gradually evolved into organization, system, definite tasks and accomplishment. Toward the close of its operation In the 1930s it came to giving credits toward "high school" diplomas.

At any rate it served several good purposes. For one, it impressed its student body it was there for much better purposes than semi-loafing. The personal contacts were its best phase. It stirred to new and better goals.

Teachers now study in schools and colleges usually of their own choice.

ELIAS BOUDINOT

Newspapers

The circulation of newspapers and periodicals began here, so far as definite record goes, with the circulation of the Missionary Herald, a religious journal published in Boston. The Herald was printed in English and was circulated mainly about the Carmel mission area, though copies doubtless reached as far north as Ellijay.

As the mission was founded in the spring of 1819, it would be safe to infer the magazines began to be circulated, first, in the mission itself and, secondly, among friends of the mission about. At one time it was said to have some 14 subscribers among the scattered folk.

This was several years before the founding of the first local newspaper, the Indian Cherokee Phoenix, at New Echota, in Gordon, an adjoining county, February 21, 1828. It was printed in English and in the 85-character syllabary of Sequoyah.* This language system contained a character for each syllable, or primary sound, of the Cherokee language.

Type for the new paper was cast in Boston, sent by ship to Savannah, then brought up the Savannah river to Augusta. From there it was brought up the old Federal road by ox team. New Echota was then an important, if small, community, for it was the seat of the Cherokee national government.

The editor of the paper for the Indians was himself a Cherokee, Elias Boudinot,** extremely active and energetic, versatile in gifts, brave and devoted to the common good. In addition to editing his paper, he worked at New Echota Mission, translated the Bible into Cherokee, wrote hymns, organized Sunday School classes and conducted prayer meetings.

He severed his connection with the Cherokee Phoenix Sept. 7, 1832, claiming "Mr. Ross does not allow free discussion." Elijah Hicks, an Indian Chief, took his place. Boudinot then went West, where he was basely murdered June 22, 1839, presumably for his espousal of removal as inevitable. But his fame endures.

Sequoyah, who made the paper possible by evolving a system of written language in which to publish it, is said to have worked 12 years on his characters. He once lived and labored in Chattooga county at a point known as Alpine near the Alabama line. The little cottage where he lived has long since vanished. He died in Mexico in August 1843.

He had been aptly called the greatest Indian.

Just how many copies of the Phoenix were distributed weekly in the bounds of old Gilmer it would be mere conjecture, at this late date, to say. But the number of copies and the influence of the perusal of it were, we may be sure, considerable.

The Union list of newspapers fails to mention any publication of the Cherokee Phoenix which was also known as the Cherokee Phoenix and Indian Advocate, before February 21, 1828. The paper was printed in both English and Cherokee. It suspended in October 1835. The University of Georgia has a highly prized copy of this newspaper.

The first "official organ" of Gilmer County, in 1833, was the Western Herald, a small newspaper published at Knucklesville, a goldmining town, then booming

*Sequoyah was said to have been born near old Echota in Tennessee about 1760. Historians have often claimed his father was a German trader. Sequoyah remained a pagan.

**Boudinot's grandfather was white. His wife was white. He studied at Cornwall, Conn. He was a Christian and an advocate of acceptance of removel, since it was inevitable.

in adjoining Lumpkin County. The Herald soon suspended, Knucklesville vanished. The community is now known as Auraria. A complete file of this paper has been at last discovered.

The Athens Banner Herald, founded in 1832, was available for Gilmer legal and other advertising from the first. In 1839 the Gilmer sheriff was authorized to advertise in an Athens newspaper, which might also have been the Athenian.

After this the Dahlonega Times (1843), The Dahlonega Watchman (being published in 1847 by Jesse W. Wicle), and, after 1851, the Signal (of Dahlonega) were available media, and were likely used. Since Mr. Wicle had family connection and personal prestige in Gilmer, he probably commanded much of the legal advertising.

But Cassville, then seat of Cass (now Bartow) County, also had newspapers—The Gazette, The Pioneer, The Standard—available as early as 1835, and may have shared in Gilmer's advertising. For in the early and middle 1850's, it has been definitely established. The Cassville Standard (launched March 15, 1849) was the only newspaper with considerable circulation. We have in the courthouse at Ellijay, a single copy of the Standard, dated Thursday, January 22, 1852. It is No. 50 of Volume 3. John W. Burke was "editor and proprietor."

The whole front page is covered with a story by "Judge Longstreet." The story is continued on page 2. The weather, on January 19 and 20, had been below zero. There was a deep snow.
There was a deep snow.

Since Gilmer County suffered the great misfortune to lose its newspaper files prior to about March 27, 1873—a loss that can never be repaired—much of its relation to newspapers up to that time can be gathered only indirectly and with meager results.

On that date the Calhoun Times (W. C. Rice and D. B. Freeman in charge), sometimes called the Calhoun Weekly Times, was definitely carrying Gilmer legal advertising. This relation continued until a local paper was established. It ceased as official organ of Gilmer County as soon as the advertising of the County could be legally transferred to the Ellijay Courier.

In 1875, Norcross, a small village in the vicinity of Atlanta, had the patriotism and temerity to be attempting the publication of a newspaper, which it called the Norcross Advance. The stockholders disagreed among themselves. And, since it is an ill wind that blows nobody good, these very contentions were probably the cause of Gilmer County's having a newspaper almost thrust upon it.

When General L. J. Gartrell, of Atlanta, ever the patriot and loyal friend of the upper Georgian, saw the inability of the stockholders to get their discord settled, he purchased the paper and outfit. He wished to save the Advance and favor Ellijay and Gilmer County at a single stroke. Having procured the Advance, he placed it in the hands of H. A. Lumsden, an experienced and practical newspaper man.

General Gartrell then directed its removal to Ellijay. The name was changed to The Ellijay Courier. The first issue of the re-named paper in its new home appeared September 1, 1875. The paper was hailed, by the intelligent portion of the population, for the highly important event that time has fully vindicated.

This event will always be a conspicuous mark along the path of Gilmer's progress. Many counties about Gilmer, and a long tier to the northeast, were still without newspaper facilities. In fact, at the time there was no newspaper east of the Western & Atlantic railroad nor northwest of the Richmond & Danville railroad except the Dahlonega Signal and possibly one other.

This first Courier came out on Wednesday. The place of publication was the old brick court house. The subscription price was $2 a year. Associated with Mr. Lumsden in this new enterprise was John Blats. Both men were of high intelligence and advanced ideas. The Ellijay Courier has probably to this day produced a better, more intelligently newsy issue than the first one in 1875.

Ellijay was then connected with stage and mail routes with Morganton, seat of Fannin County; Cartersville, Dahlonega, Ducktown (in Tennessee). David Garren was the postmaster.

The front page of the first issue of the Courier consisted of an article on Andrew Johnson and his death, others on manners at home, and the baby, news of local interest and nature and on the progress of the move to procure the Marietta & North Georgia railroad, then graded to Canton.

Page two contained a salutatory by the publishers, a Negro insurrection (elsewhere in Georgia), general news of the state, a fine article on the minerals of the County and a letter by Jefferson Davis.

Page three was occupied by two columns of local news, a lengthy booster article by J. M. Watkins (probably a doctor) and an account of a Baptist association which had met at Ellijay the preceding August 20th and dedicated a new Baptist church building, a story of Captains Blacker and Whitmore's revenue activities, advertisements and notices. John Hunnicut was currier and tanner.* Norcross High School hailed Gilmer across a stretch of some 75 miles; Ellington & Wilson, Ellijay merchants, and Duckett & Co., Atlanta, took space; and there was an appropriate sketch of Gilmer County.

The last page had wit and humor—the wine concluding the feast—large advertisements of medicine, sewing machines and tools. Personal mention was made of Miss Emma Tabor, Dr. J. R. Johnson, J. C. Allen, Mrs. E. S. Perry of the Ellijay Hotel, Thomas F. Greer, Dr. E. W. Watkins, P. H. Milton, and the United States Soldiers who had struck tents and departed on the 26th of the preceding month of August. The Ellijay Seminary, just completed and opened for instruction, received cordial attention. By October 1st there had been wide favorable reaction to the appearance of the Ellijay Courier.

In Gilmer, as it probably was generally, the pioneer policy was to furnish world news. But, as time passed and the circulation of newspapers increased and news-disseminating agencies otherwise multiplied, the importance of local news increased until its inclusion in the Courier type of newspaper grew to prime importance.

The arrival of Julian A. Pollard in Ellijay, before September 29, 1875, was an event of importance in the early, struggling life of the Courier. He worked with the paper before assuming connection with the seminary, which appears to have been deferred in its opening till November 19. At that time he "entered upon his duties (with the institution). He is a graduate of one of our first colleges (said to have been Harvard), a strict member of the Baptist church, and is in every respect amply qualified for the position."

Mr. Pollard was a native of Vermont, said to have been related to Calvin Coolidge. He seems to have come to Ellijay primarily to teach in the newly opened seminary. He appears to have had real ideals on works based largely on consecration.

We learn of him, further, to the effect that on September 29, 1875, he ("a gentleman and finished scholar") is already in the editorial department. The Courier became seven-column, size 24x36 inches.

*His tanneray was out in Pump Springs Hollow.

Pollard remained at Ellijay till February 23, 1876, when he went to Texas to take charge of a school. Later still, report came back, he returned to his native Vermont.

Brief as his stay was, he left behind impressions, standards and inspirations that mark him as a distinctly able man. The prestige he added to the Courier helped to sustain the paper through a critical period.

On January 12, 1876, John Blats parted company with the Courier. He went to Gainesville, where he joined the staff of the Gainesville Eagle. The Gainesville North Georgian, doubtless founded by him, was being published December 2, 1877. Mr. Blats lived to be very old and died there only about 30 years ago.

On the date of Mr. Blats's retirement the Courier appears as a "half-sheet," or single leaf, and it is announced that Blats is already connected with the Gainesville Eagle.

On April 5, 1876, the Ellijay Courier was still being edited by H. A. Lumsden.

May 3, 1876, Mr. Lumsden is publisher, the paper is $2 per year and still published in the courthouse. "Elder" J. S. Lee is general agent. Agents are to receive advertising and subscriptions at Morganton, Vanzant's Store (Fannin County), Jasper (seat of Pickens), Mount Eolia (Towns County), Cartersville, and Ducktown, Tennessee.

Lumsden continued for eight months as editor. He then sold his interest in the Courier to a company of joint stockholders consisting of E. W. Watkins, J. M. Watkins, J. C. Allen, William Ellington, P. H. Milton, David Garren, and J. I. Jarrett. Lumsden subsequently migrated to Savannah, where he died of yellow fever.

This deal was made May 3, 1876.

One week later (May 10) comes out a salutatory signed "The Courier Company."

E. H. Gruby took over, for a month, editorship.

On May 31, 1876, the Courier carries a valedictory of the Courier Company and the salutatory of a new editor, Samuel R. Freeman. On the 12th day of June he is calling his clippings "scissorsinktums."

On Aug. 30, 1876, the Courier came out a single uncut sheet folded into four pages. Its publication day remained Wednesday. Under its name it bore the slogan, "Error ceases to be dangerous when reason is left free to combat it."

The subscription was the same, as was the publication place. The paper carried the announcement that the Courier was the only newspaper in the 41st senatorial district or in Gilmer, Fannin, Towns, Union, Pickens, Murray or Dawson counties. In the last named county a paper, the Dawsonville Advertiser, appeared in 1887.

The Courier thus had an immense area to which it hoped, in spite of its meager space, to appeal.

On March 7, 1877, the Courier was still displaying the quotation from Jefferson which it had used as a slogan the year before. On the 26th of the following May J. C. Allen edited the paper. He was assisted by G. F. Cochran. The subscription price was the original figure. The sheets were small but cut at the edges now. Prior to June 30, 1877, the publication date had been changed from Wednesday to Tuesday. Another change—to Saturday—was then announced, effective August 28 "for better connections with various mails." On the 10th of July the subscription was reduced to $1.50.

On July 31, 1877, G. F. Cochran ceased service as local editor.

On August 28, 1877, the Courier was still the only newspaper in the 41st senatorial district or in the various counties already mentioned under date of August 30 of the year preceeding. During this period the Courier (as under the Colemans) was outspokenly Democratic. Under H. M. Ellington it was Republican.

September 28, 1877, an improvement, by which readers got some twice as much pure reading matter (seven columns), was effected in the Courier.

On November 28 the Atlanta Constitution declared "the Ellijay Courier has entered upon its third volume and is just about as lively as a weekly paper ever gets to be."

During 1878 the subscription was $1.50. On November 1, J. C. Allen, after nearly two years of management, severed relations with the Courier, turning it over to G. F. Cochran, again his assistant. Judge Allen stated he found the paper "a mass of ruins." He left it, as was patent to the most casual reader, in a much improved condition.

On November 28 the paper announced the end of volume four of its existence, and enlargement to seven columns. At the close of this month G. F. Cochran was sole editor and proprietor. But on the 20th of December of that year J. C. Allen had once more assumed the functions of editor and proprietor combined, with Mr. Cochran merely assisting in the publishing.

On or about January 8, 1879, John Blat's North Georgian and most of its "outfit" burned. On the 17th of the same month word concerning Blats came back. On February 23rd following he was planning to start the paper again at Bellton, and on April 12 the first issue of his paper, revived under its old name of North Georgian, appeared.

On February 7, 1879, G. F. Cochran, the great comebacker, was again editing the Courier.

Through the lean spring of 1879 the Courier carried little local news, and almost none from the neighboring counties of which it was presumably spokesman. Rural Gilmer correspondents were conspicuously lacking. An abundance of space, however, went to advertisements, few of which carried cuts or other device for catching the eye as in modern times. Modern psychology and advertising were scarcely, as yet, on speaking terms.

On the 27th of the next June (1879) Mr Cochran somewhat precipitately left the paper lock, stock and barrel, and Mr. Allen again took over complete responsibility for its publication. Judge Allen seemed fully determined for Gilmer County to have a newspaper.

For several weeks succeeding, Greer & Kirby, as a temporary expedient, had control. On July 4, Greer & Perry were in charge, and the paper was issued every Thursday.

Then, on July 27, 1879, W. F. Combs arrived in Ellijay to take charge; and on August 1st took over and directed the destiny of the much bandied-about Courier. On November 21, 1877, report of him negotiating for the purchase of a paper in Athens had been published.

In June 1881, the publication date was shifted from Friday to Wednesday.

On the first day of the following December, W. F. Combs withdrew from the picture. Luckily, the Courier, fated, it seemed, to sail tempestuous seas and live the dangerous life, fell upon rescuers in the person of L. B. Greer and T. B. Kirby. They came to the helm on the 4th day of December. They found a paper with quality and prestige sadly declined.

On the 5th of the succeeding January (1882), W. F. Combs and his family left Ellijay for Augusta, Georgia. Mr. Combs later settled at Macon, where he spent the last 25 years of his life. He formed a connection there with the Macon Evening News. Later still, he became law agent for the Southern Railroad. He died February 12, 1911, at the age of 69.

June 27, 1882, it seems that G. F. Cochran—apparently the identical man who suddenly withdrew in June 1879, and had been, due to his practical knowledge of operating a newspaper, re-employed on it—finally left the Courier. He seems to have come from Covington, Georgia, to Ellijay, and probably returned to his old home.

On June 28, 1883, the Courier was being published each Thursday by L. B. Greer and T. B. Kirby, and was still the official organ of Fannin and Pickens counties as well as of the county of its location.

On the 4th of October 1883, the editor, feeling the first nip of the early mountain fall, quaintly pleaded to delinquent subscribers:

"Will those who owe us (the editor) be so kind as to make an occasional settlement? If you haven't got money, bring us wheat, corn, potatoes, dried fruit, bacon, pork, fodder, or anything else that man or beast can eat."

July 17, 1884, the Greer and Kirby management (which began December 4, 1881) was still effectual, and the newspaper was the official organ of Gilmer and Fannin Counties. It was still published in the courthouse. It flaunted, like the proverbial banner on a mast, the slogan, "A map of busy life—its fluctuations and its vast concerns." The word "fluctuations" seemed highly pertinent when one reflects upon the fact that the Courier changed management some fifteen times during the first ten years of its existence.

The summer of 1884 (August 7) The Dahlonega Signal commented, "We called, for a few moments, upon Miss Ella J. Courier and found her comfortably nested in one corner of the courthouse."

Notable changes came to the Courier in the summer of 1885. L. B. Greer and T. B. Kirby severed their relations with the struggling paper. And, beginning with the issue of June 11, one week later, E. W. and W. S. Coleman, brothers, became captains of its fate. W. S. Coleman came directly from the office of the Dahlonega Signal. Both were recent graduates of North Georgia Agriculture College, and fiery with energy and expectancy.

Their enterprise, virility, and intelligence soon struck sparks. The Courier promptly enlarged and, as much in quality as in size, improved notably. It had correspondents as far away as Talking Rock, Morganton and Jasper. On the 25th of the same month Coleman Brothers purchased the "press and material" of the Jasper news, which had suspended.

October 11, 1885, marks the withdrawal of E. W. Coleman from the partnership. He was replaced by T. B. Kirby. By November 25 following, the newspaper, still published on Thursday, was carrying more home print.

The Coleman family, around the close of 1885, was spreading out effectively in more estates than "the fourth." While Walter S. was editor of the Ellijay Courier, E. W. was attorney at Ellijay. W. L. was a physician of Canton, having been valedictorian in a medical class of forty, 1881. J. I. was editor of the Conyers Weekly-Farmer.

On April 22, 1886, the Courier had announced it had enlarged to a seven-column form and improved still further in quality. The Courier boat seemed nosing out for a real voyage.

The subscription price, October 27, 1887, was reduced to one dollar—at which figure it stood till recent years. Doubtless cheaper, quicker transportation, together with improved circulation, in large part accounts for the reduction. W. R. Coleman is said to own the Courier.

July 12, 1888, the paper was being edited and operated solely by E. W. Coleman. He was succeeded by Thurston B. Kirby, who in turn was followed, May 1890, by Horace A. Ellington.

J. H. Hutchinson succeeded to the "editorial chair and proprietorship" on August 2, 1894. Mr. Hutchinson had been associated with the Cherokee Advance at Canton, Georgia.

In December 1894, Horace M. Ellington, who had already served his apprenticeship with the Ellijay Courier, launched the Mountain Sentinel. With him was associated Larkin E. Bishop. The paper was inscribed, "Devoted to the best interests of the Piedmont region of Georgia: North Georgia, a region of surpassing beauty and undeveloped wealth."

On January 30, 1896, the Ellijay Courier claimed to have subscribers in 32 states and territories; which, at least, betokened the interest of Gilmer people in their old home and their disposition to scatter and pioneer.

September 24, 1896, Horace M. Ellington sold his half-interest in the Mountain Sentinel to his associate in the publishing business, Larkin E. Bishop. A week later (October 1) Mr. Ellington severed relations with the paper.

Larkin E. Bishop assumed entire control as editor and proprietor of the Sentinel, October 8, 1896. J. F. Holden assisted with the publication. However, on November 25, 1897, Bishop severed his connection and turned the paper over to John S. Everett.

On December 2, 1897, promoters of the Mountain Sentinel sold it to John S. Everett, whereupon it was combined with the Ellijay Courier, of which J. H. Hutchinson was still editor. The resulting weekly was thereafter called the Courier-Sentinel. J. H. Hutchinson and John S. Everett became joint proprietors, with Hutchinson editing. The consolidated paper carried more home print.

July 14 of the next year (1898) Mr. Hutchinson closed his relation with the Courier-Sentinel, selling his interest in it to G. W. Gates. September 8 following John S. Everett disposed of his half-interest to J. G. Greer, who subsequently entered the U. S. Army during the war with Spain. Later still Mr. Greer was station agent at Dames Ferry, near Macon, for a long time.

The first issue of the Ellijay Times (S. Estes Johnston, first editor) occurred April 11, 1899. Mr. Johnston announced the forthcoming paper as having "brand-new type, press and fixtures." In founding this new paper he had the assistance of his half-sister, Miss Alice Redmond, who later became Mrs. Alice Teem. The new newspaper was Democratic.

Other backers of this enterprise were J. Gordon Cole and N. L. Tankersley. Miss Sally Long (who became Mrs. Alf Kelley) set type for a while. George W. Gates, April 13, 1899, became sole editor and proprietor. Mr. Gates subsequently worked on several other newspapers in both Georgia and Tennessee. At the time of his death, April 6, 1917, he lived at St. Elmo, Tenn.

On August 21, 1900, the Ellijay Times was folded into four sheets.

R. C. Welch once acquired a half interest in the Courier-Sentinel. He took a job at Blue Ridge. Prior to May 29, 1902, he had sold his interest in the paper. In a statement dated Oct. 31, 1946, Mr. Welch said he lost $750 in this deal.

A crisis came to the Courier-Sentinel on May 29, 1902. T. H. Tabor, already organized as the Ellijay Publishing company, bid in the paper and its outfit at a sheriff's sale, and assumed its publication. Beginning with the isssue of May 15, 1902, the Courier-Sentinel dropped its hyphenated name and became once more simply the Ellijay Courier. About this time Horace M. Ellington acquired a half-interest in the paper. And on Sept. 11, 1902, after an absence of eight years, he rejoined the Courier.

November 29, 1906, T. H. Tabor and Horace M. Ellington were still joint editors and proprietors of the paper. They usually signed their respective initials to editorials and articles. On or about Dec. 1, 1908, T. H. Tabor sold his half interest in the Ellijay Courier to Horace M. Ellington, who thereupon became sole editor and proprietor.

November 19, 1909, marks a sort of red letter occasion for the Ellijay Courier. It moved into its new building equipped with office, outfit and plans for a more ambitious publication.

June 30, 1910, the Courier was the official organ of Gilmer County. In August of that same year both the Times and the Courier carried the slogan, "Devoted to the interests of Ellijay and Gilmer County." The Times later adopted a saying in Latin, "Labor omnia vincit improbat."

On January 12, 1911, the Courier was appearing as an eight page paper, Horace M. Ellington, editor. The summer following saw distinct advances in the makeup and quality of the paper.

On July 10, 1907, S. Estes Johnston was editor of the still published Ellijay Times. At the close of the year, however, the paper suspended publication, and plans of Mr. Johnston to leave Ellijay were announced. A month later (Jan. 30, 1908) the paper was sold to a stock company called the "Times Publishing Company," which resumed the papers publication, with Cornelius W. Bramlett as editor. Owners were J. Gordon Cole, Dr. J. S. Tankersley, Dr. N. C. Goss, W. B. James, C. W. Bramlett, N. L. Tankersley. These respective individuals each subscribed $50 in stock.

After a time (subsequent to Sept. 2, 1908), Bramlett retired as editor, and was succeeded by J. Gordon Cole. Mr. Cole told the writer the owners of the Ellijay Times shifted editing and management of the paper, as far as practicable, among themselves. Toward the close of its history, however, the paper was edited by Miss Mary Tankersley.

The organizers of the "Times Company" did not group their efforts, merely maintaining without any hope of making money, their privilege of being heard by the public.

May 3, 1911, the Ellijay Times became the official organ of Gilmer County.

On July 24, 1913, S. Estes Johnston died at Ellijay. An only brother of Mrs. Alice Teem, with whose co-operation he established the paper, he still retained connections with the Times Company, to which he had sold it. But under the management of the company the name of the editor seldom appeared in the paper. In 1913 it appeared that N. L. Tankersley had an official capacity with the paper. October 1, 1914, Mr. Tankersley is definitely named as editor, while his sister, Miss Mary Tankersley, was managing editor. L. G. Greer was handling the mechanical phase of the paper's publication and was known as the "publisher."

December 9, 1915, Horace M. Ellington announced the sale of the Ellijay Courier to Edge Brothers of Jasper, Georgia, and C. F. Owen of Atlanta. The purchasers as a group, had already negotiated for the Ellijay Times; and were arranging for a consolidation, at the end of the year, of the two papers.

At this time the Courier was being published in what was then known as the McKinnish boarding house, and the Times in the upstairs of the old Dr. Tankersley building that stood where the bank is now located. Equipment for printing of the two papers consisted of two Washington hand presses, two small jobbers, and a few cases of type.

The old presses went into scrap. The old type was stacked away. Type is now set by linotype. The paper is printed on a power press. The job presses have been replaced by power presses automatically fed.

On Jan. 1, 1916, C. F. Owen and R. M. Edge (of the Pickens County Progress, a newspaper of Jasper) effected the consolidation of the Ellijay Courier (still edited up to that time by Horace M. Ellington) and the Ellijay Times (edited by Miss Mary Tankersley) into the Times-Courier of today. Both old papers were ready print. The new paper became home print.

The new Times-Courier of Jan. 7, 1916, carried a salutatory in which it announced its non-partisan political policy, its goodwill and hopes for general co-operation and progress.

On May 19, 1916, the Times-Courier installed a cylinder press.

September 28, 1917, marked the entry of R. M. Edge into military service. This depletion of operating force necessitated changing the Times-Courier back to ready print, which meant the paper was already half printed when it came to Ellijay.

On Dec 7, 1917, the paper flourished about its name at the top of page one cuts of flags and the slogan, "We push for prosperity—Give us a pull."

June 13, 1919, brought an announcement that the Times-Courier was back to "all home print." R. M. Edge had returned from World War I to again assist in its publication.

February 20, 1920, the publication day of the paper was changed from Thursday to Friday of each week. Later, it went back to Thursday, and is now appearing on that same day of the week.

July 16, 1920, R. M. Edge having become postmaster at Jasper, severed connection with the Times-Courier, leasing his interest in it to C. F. Owen. February 15, 1924, Edge Brothers of Jasper ceased all connection with the Times-Courier and C. F. Owen assumed entire control, a position he held until 1959, when he sold the paper and outfit to the Times-Courier Publishing company, Inc.

Roy A. Cook, on Sept. 3, of that year, became publisher; and Roy A. Cook Jr. became editor. Celestine Sibley, on the same date, pays fitting tribute to Mr. Owen. Likewise the new publisher, Roy A. Cook, pays an apt appreciation of the paper and its former editor and publisher, C. F. Owen, and expresses sincere hopes for the future.

Distinguished Visitors

To mention all the distinguished dignitaries of church and state that have visited Gilmer County would be calling quite a roll.

William G. McAdoo, born in Cobb County, came through before the advent of a railroad, though youthful, he ably proclaimed its cause and urged the people to persist in bringing it to a reality. William G. McAdoo is a proud tradition here.

The distinguished preacher Sam Jones, though living but 60 miles away, seems merely to have passed through the County from time to time. There is no record he ever spoke within its bounds. Friday, May 29, 1896, he passed through

and addressed Blue Ridge. His brother Joe crusaded for temperance at a number of points in Gilmer. He was excluded from a number of Gilmer churches.

Benjamin Harvey Hill boosted the cause of the railroad at the old Pump Springs in 1873.

About November 3, 1835, John Howard Payne visited Ellijay. He was making a trip through the Cherokee country. His mission is said to have been to gather material for a magazine story. He paused at Ellijay. C. A. Ellington long remembered (as late as December 17, 1891) the visit of Payne.

From a letter dated July 18, 1836, and addressed to a woman in Athens, Georgia, we may safely judge Payne had been to Gilmer and departed. He apparently approached by the old Jackson Trail, probably by Augusta and Athens. We have some authority for believing he was in Athens both going and coming. But just what his complete route of approach and departure was we cannot ascertain. He almost certainly left the old Federal Road about present Blaine and came up Cat Creek to Town Creek, thence to Ellijay.

The poet was traveling by private conveyance. In traversing the rough roads he had broken his harness. He inquired for a man to mend it. He was referred to a citizen named Satterfield (first name probably Larkin) and, being told that Mr. Satterfield was a combination of harness maker, barkeeper, and clerk of the inferior court, Mr. Payne smiled and said, "A singular combination of occupations."

He was arrested by the Georgia Guard in Polk County, Tennessee, November 7, 1835, and confined in a small prison near the present Vann house at Spring Place for several days thereafter.

Two presidents visited the County, merely passing by way of the Old Federal Road. They were James Monroe and Andrew Jackson. President Monroe, going north, passed on or near May 26, 1819. He was on his way to Brainerd Mission, two miles north of the Georgia line, now suburban Chattanooga. He passed by Coosawattee Old Town (now Carter's Quarters), probably spending a night there or at Spring place.

Gen. Jackson, later president, called for volunteers from Tennessee and Kentucky to join him in a march to Florida to quell an outbreak of Seminole Indians that had occurred there in 1817. He appears to have passed through present Gilmer by the same route as that taken by President Monroe, about March 5, 1818. He reached Fort Hawkins (now Macon) February 9, 1818. He then proceeded south to Fort Scott, in present Early County.*

Participating Georgians were under Brig. Gen. Glascock.

Postmasters of Ellijay

Postmaster	Date Appointed
Benjamin Griffith (office established)	Feb. 25, 1834
William P. King	April 15, 1834
Coke A. Ellington	Sept. 11, 1834
Rollin A. Gibbs	March 1, 1836
Elijah W. Chastain	Oct. 8, 1836
Hawkins F. Price	July 9, 1839
William H. Banks	May 23, 1842
James G. Gudger	April 10, 1843

*History of Columbus, Georgia, Telfair, p 14.

Andrew J. Williams	Feb. 3, 1846
J. F. Ellington	Feb. 3, 1848
William Erwin	March 29, 1848
Newton M. Foster	June 19, 1849
Benjamin Johnston	Aug. 21, 1850
Alexander Wakefield	Jan. 30, 1851
William Erwin	July 7, 1851
Western R. Welsh	March 1, 1856
William P. Mitten	April 15, 1858
John Ball	Feb. 12, 1859
W. P. Milton	May 4, 1859
Joseph P. Chastain	May 26, 1860
John W. Greer	Feb. 27, 1866
Mrs. Charlotte T. Jarrett	April 9, 1866
John M. Watkins	Sept. 15, 1868
James R. Allen	May 18, 1869
Joseph Ellington	August 19, 1869
John W. Greer	Dec. 17, 1869
John P. Cobb	Nov. 21, 1872
George M. Heath	July 1, 1873
John A. Thurman	Nov. 11, 1873
J. C. Allen	March 16, 1874
David Garren	May 17, 1875
William F. Hipp	Feb. 24, 1881
William A. Cox	June 16, 1885
Levi M. Greer	April 20, 1889
Adolphus T. Logan	May 3, 1893
Sarah M. Logan	June 15, 1896
Larkin E. Bishop	Sept. 28, 1897
Horace M. Ellington	Jan. 4, 1905
Nicholas L. Tankersley	May 28, 1914
James L. Weaver	Nov. 23, 1921
E. Watkins Edwards (acting)	June 18, 1934
Howard Perry	Feb. 19, 1935
Paul L. Watson	Feb. 12, 1940
Howard Simmons (acting)	Dec 15, 1940
W. B. James	Dec. 31, 1941
W. C. Reece (acting)	Jan. 1, 1943
Catherine Wingate	May 19, 1943
W. C. Reece (clerk in charge)	Dec. 28, 1943
W. C. Reece (acting)	Feb. 11, 1944
R. C. Stembridge Sr.	April 2, 1951
C. C. Poindexter, Jr.	May 31, 1965

Laws Relating to Ellijay

Laws relating to Ellijay are: Acts of 1834, 247-8, incorporating of county seat: 1840, 102, site of public buildings; incorporation; 1873, 154, to incorporate; 1882-3, 297-8, to incorporate and to grant election power and privileges; 1887, 584-5, caption only, an act to amend charter; 1890-1, vol. 2, 1898-900, to amend charter; 1897, 196-9, to authorize debt of $5,000; 1900, 297, to amend charter; 1908, 646-7, charter of Aug. 16, 1883, repealed; 1909, incorporation; 1915, 616-19, public school system; 1918, 695-6, streets and cemeteries; 1924, 560-1, schools, repealing act of Nov. 29, 1897; 1927, 1110-20, charter amendment.

SCHMALE FAMILY

Back row, left to right: Henry, Bill, Gus, Louis, Jr. Front row: Minnie, Lena, Alvira. Seated: Louie; his wife, Marie (Kauffman) Schmale. Their names in German: Hennrich, Wilhelm, Gustaf, Louie, Lena, Hermina, Alvira.

Germans

In the summer of 1893 it was reported in our local press that a company of Germans at Walhalla, South Carolina, wanted to leave there and settle in Cartecay district, their purpose being to raise wine grapes.

Bnt it was eight years later (1901) before such settlers finally did arrive, and they settled in Ball Ground district, on the edge of Pickens county, near a post office called Orr.

Among these settlers was Jacob E. Elsner, who remained five years in Gilmer, then went to Cobb county. He died about 30 years ago. In 1906 Henry F. Elsner migrated to Atlanta and there became apprentice to a jewelry company conducted by a Mr. Muench and an associate. Mr. Muench lived until 1947.

The business (with which Henry F. Elsner had continued his connection) then dissolved. Henry F. took it over. And it has become H. F. Elsner & Son. The firm, listed in the modern Atlanta telephone directory, has its quarters on the first floor of the Volunteer building.

The Germans chose for themselves a rural section in which to live and work. They purposed to do hard, productive labor. The early arrivals consisted of the following heads of families: Kowitz (descendants still in the county), Schmale, Louie and his wife Marie (Kauffman) Schmale.

Their children were: girls, Minnie, Lena, Alvina; boys, Henry, Bill, Gus, Louie Jr.

Eisner, Jacob, who long owned property in Gilmer.

Ninnaman, Herman (removed to Kansas).

Mahl (removed to Colorado).

The Schmales and Ninnamans first settled in Nebraska, and from there came to Gilmer. The Eisners came from Chicago. Mrs. J. W. Sellers, now deceased, of Ellijay was Miss Lena Marie Schmale. She was acquainted with the German language.

All these people were genuinely Teutonic, were Lutherans, and all older members of the band were born in Germany.

Some of the Germans that removed from Gilmer went to Alabama, settling mainly about Cullman. The Elsners used to visit Mrs. J. W. Sellers in Ellijay. But the few Germans that remained in Gilmer have all but lost contact with their scattered kin and others of the original sturdy band that reached here more than 60 years ago.

Ducktown

The brief story of Ducktown should be included because Gilmer county, which once actually adjoined the mining district, has had great influence at Ducktown. And affairs of the mining district have deeply affected Gilmer.

These statements are based on an article that appeared in the Columbus Enquirer in the summer of 1947. This, in turn, was credited to historical researches of R. E. Barclay and issued by the Ducktown Copper Station.

"Ducktown was named for a Cherokee Indian Chief named 'Duck'*. Following the removal of the Indians to the west in 1838, copper was discovered

*The author doubts this. Indians seldom named places after chiefs. All important places and districts already had names before the white men had any knowledge of these Indian localities or their chiefs. On old maps the Ducktown sector is marked simply Cowanneh, Indian word for "duck" or "ducktown."

by one of the early white settlers in 1843**, and in 1850 mining operations were started. A road was built, a few years later, through the Ocoee gorge westward toward Cleveland, Tenn.

The paternal grandfather of the writer was connected with transportation of copper ore from the district down the river January 1, 1855. Prior to 1853, high grade or black copper ore was carried 25 miles south (entering Gilmer in the heart of present Copper Hill where Fannin county now begins, unless the Rogers Ferry route further west were chosen) to the border of Ellijay.

Then the mule-back and wagon trains turned west, following the present general route of Henry Grady highway until they approached Nine Mile Methodist Church in the Mountaintown district. At that point they probably turned to the right, entered Murray County near Locust Gap and continued down Holly Creek toward Dalton. There was another, more southerly, route into Murray. But the northern route seemed to have been favored by travelers to Dalton. Both routes were nightmares compared with modern roads.

This route, all told, was fully 70 miles. The new route from Ocoee river cut the distance 30 miles—down to 40.

"From 1878 to 1890 the mines were closed due to lack of rail facilities. Except for that period, consisting of 12 years, the mines have been in operation since 1850. This is one of the oldest copper mining districts in the country. It is said that Ducktown copper was an important factor in enabling the South to stay in the Civil war four years.

The denuded appearance of the landscape in the copper basin resulted from the erection of small furnaces, beginning in 1854, for treating the ores locally. Before being placed in the furnaces, the ore was "roasted" in large open roast piles in order to eliminate its sulphur content. Large quantities of wood were required for this roasting process, and many trees were felled. The wood was used for both this process and for the usual pioneer domestic purposes.

Volumes of smoke from the roast yards would settle in the adjacent countryside. The smoke, charged with sulphur dioxide, proved injurious to most forms of vegetation. By the close of the roastyard era, ending in 1904, the whole area was treeless. The growth of lesser forms of vegetation was noticebly impaired.

"A third factor in the destruction was erosion, much aggravated by annual burning of the protective sedge grass." The writer believes reforestation can finally be accomplished only by putting crews to work in deadly earnest and letting them continue to work as long as it takes. Top soil will have to be brought in in vast quantities and then trapped so it can't wash away. It might be that grasses and kudzu would be good starters; only an expert could say.

"The Tennessee Copper company, operating in the basin since 1898, is the lone survivor of a score or more concerns that have operated since 1850.

"Blister copper was the sole product of the Basin until 1908, when the Tennessee Copper company began the manufacture of 60--degree sulphuric acid from the sulphur dioxide smoke that hitherto had been dispersed into the atmosphere. Other grades and strengths of sulphuric acid have been added to the list of products.

"Also a high grade iron sinter, different grades of copper sulphate (or bluestone), a wide variety of fungicides and insecticides, a zinc concentrate, and crushed, screened and granulated slag.

**Federal geologists say 1847.

"Principal units of the mining industry operating in the basin are the mines, flotation plants, roasters, sintering plants, acid plants, blast and reverberatory furnaces, converters and railroad department of 25 miles of standard guage track.

"The Tennessee Copper company's principal plant, general office and hospital are located at Copperhill, Tenn.

"The Copper Basin is approximately 100 square miles in area. The chief centers of population are Copperhill and Ducktown in Tennessee and McCaysville and Epworth in Georgia." Copper Hill and McCaysville are continuous, the Georgia-Tennessee line cutting right through the neighborhood. The two towns are usually spoken of under the general term of Copper Hill. In fact, the whole Ducktown area is sometimes referred to in this way. Sixty years ago the present Copper Hill community was small and unimportant—and known merely as McCay's. Its importance began with the opening of the big furnaces on the north-western outskirts. Copper Hill post office used to be on a hill two miles northwest of present Copper Hill. When Copper Hill was applied to the former McCay's, the former Copper Hill post office became known as Hyatt. Ducktown is in the old area.

"The population of the area is about 10,000. Embraced in the area are parts of three counties—Polk, in Tennessee, Fannin (formerly Gilmer), in Georgia and Cherokee, in North Carolina. Originally known as Ducktown, later as Ducktown Basin, the district is known locally as the Copper Basin—or simply as the Basin."

Copper also exists in Georgia (original Gilmer) south of Copperhill. About three miles southwest of the great Ducktown mines, in Fannin county, was formerly operated a mine called No. 20, opened in 1861 or 1862. About the close of the Civil War work stopped till 1877 or 1878, when it was again opened. A short time later after it was again closed—till 1905, when it was purchased by James F. Howe, whereupon more work was done.

Only about half a mile away was Mobile mine, opened in 1858 by the Mobile and Atlanta Mining Company. Here a smelter was erected. The ore was roasted in open heaps and then smelted nearby.

This mine was closed in 1861 and nothing further done until 1891 or 1892. Last report the mine was inactive.

North of these mines—still in Georgia—copper has also been found. Some miles southwest, near Hidgon's, copper is said to crop from the ground.

George Chancey, expert in such matters, says copper crops out on Flat Mountain, modern Gilmer county. He also says it is his understanding that a vein was struck during excavation of the Ellijay-Chatsworth highway.

Ginseng*

Roots and herbs and lumber constitute about all the products of the county, except gold, that find their way to foreign markets. The one that goes furtherest is no doubt ginseng root, the plant with the Chinese name because purchased by the Chinese.

The plant grows wild on the rich cool slopes of high mountains, though it is probably very scarce now. As a boy the author had dug it in the mountains of northern Gilmer. For two or three generations it has been a violation of the law to dig it when it is in blossom. But people continue to dig it then because if they wait it may be harder to locate.

*Pronounced Ginsang.

It likes the same kind of ground that produces ramps, the wild onion. The soil must be rich, high and almost sunless. It grows on north slopes only and so high that the mean annual temperature averages close to New England. It has been successfully cultivated.

The fine article here offered was supplied by the National Geographic Society. Here it is—in their words.

Renewed postwar shipment of ginseng, the "golden weed," from the United States to China recalls one of the earliest chapters of American foreign trade, says the National Geographic Society.

The withered root is regarded by Orientals as a panacea for many ills, although American scientists have said that it has no therapeutic value. As late as 1940, China received more than a million dollars worth from American sources.

The first ship that sailed directly from the United States to China—the "Empress of China," out of New York in 1784—carried more than 20 tons of ginseng. It was growing wild in the woods of New England and along the Hudson River banks.

Worth Weight in Gold

The weed was scarce in the Orient, where it was highly prized. Once ginseng was worth its weight in gold, and for a long time it remained a royal monopoly in China. It was found in Manchuria, in what were considered imperial preserves, and was collected by specially detailed soldiers of the imperial army.

When the Oriental demand for this drug came to the attention of the directors of the Dutch East India Company early in the 18th century, they began a world-wide search for other sources of ginseng or a substitute. They found that Massachusetts Indians gathered a similar root in the hills near Stockbridge. Dutch merchants at Albany, N. Y., acquired supplies by bartering trinkets and rum with the Indians.

The Dutch carried cargoes down the Hudson and thence to Amsterdam. From there, part of the ginseng went to the Portuguese port of Macao on the China Sea coast, the first port in that region opened to western trade.

500 Per Cent Profit

Some of the ginseng from America went to the English East India Company, which also had offices at Macao. No commodity proved more profitable than ginseng, which yielded a return of more than 500 per cent.

In time ginseng became the United States' most valuable export to China. Yankee clipper ships carried as much as 4 million pounds a year, returning with cargoes of tea, silk, rice, and other products of the Far East.

Ginseng was later found growing wild in varying abundance from Maine to Minnesota, and southward in the mountain regions to Georgia and the Carolinas. As the wild root disappeared, its cultivation was started.

Early Marriages

By first marriages, we mean, of course, marriages between white persons. Indian marriages would go too far back. And marriages between whites and Indians would begin at least as early as 1750 when whites began settling around Talking Rock.

The first known and authenticated marriage is recorded under our discussion of Carmel mission, and was that of Daniel Sabin Butrick and Elizabeth Proctor at Talking Rock. This was late in the spring of 1827.

The marriage records of Gilmer County are believed to be complete. We present but a few of the earliest.

Isham C. King to Pollyanna Quillian, April 30, 1834, William Ellington I officiating.

James Moreland to Sarah Stephens. This couple procured a license on Oct. 28, 1835, and married the same day.

William Weems to Caroline Addington; procured license Dec. 28, 1835, and were married that day by C. Quillian, justice of the inferior court.

Henry Addington and Ann Holt procured a license and married the same day—New Year's day of 1836.

Thomas Siniard to Katharine Bearden, Jan. 12, 1837.

Jesse Charles to Susannah Bramlett; procured license and were wed same day. L. Smith, clerk of the inferior court, signed the license and Stephen Griffith, J. P., performed the ceremony, June 30, 1839.

Tolliver Green to Winnie Bearden, Dec. 7, 1841.

John Holden to Lydia Bearden, Dec. 20, 1841; Harrison Bearden to Lucretia Matthews, July 19, 1850.

Absalom Smith to Elizabeth Foster; Fields Chapman to Amy Foster.

Milk Sickness

This somewhat mysterious and evasive mountain term refers to an illness among cattle that may be transmitted to persons. It is usually said to be caused by the eating of a weed that grows on dark, heavily shaded areas of the north sides of mountains, usually where the land is rich. Such spots are sometimes covered with it.

Thick woods usually cover such areas as are infested. It seems it cannot exist in sunny spots. It is found in what the mountaineers call dark coves, or hollows. When cattle have eaten the loco weed that causes it, they sometimes tumble over in agony and die, according to some cattle raisers. Others claim that milk cows usually live through an infection, though they become very sick.

Milk from an infected cow makes the drinker violently ill, though the poison is passed through sweet milk and butter fat only. The drinking of buttermilk from the infected cow does not bring illness. It is said that the mother of Abraham Lincoln died from such a milk sickness.

Antidotes for it are few, though the use of white snakeroot has been recommended. A high fever follows the infection. In order to induce vomiting, patients sometimes take alcohol in quantities sufficient to make it an emetic.

Our Cemeteries

The time has come when all who have an interest in our cemeteries should join an effort to improve the care given to them.

Our fathers gave us land for them. Progressive communities have done much in modern times to improve such plots.

The "decoration days" common in Gilmer are really memorials. They are good ideas because they stress loving remembrance of our kin, of neighbors and the stranger who fell on death among us. They remind us to give better care to cemeteries, the erection of suitable markers, and beautification of such areas.

Up to the present, the churches have furnished burial plots free and people of the community have volunteered (at least, largely) to dig graves. Anyone has had permission to use the burial areas. They donate ample food with their annual memorial services when graves of the dead are decorated and tribute paid to their memory.

With the arrival of a new day and new customs, these people connected with the churches find themselves overloaded with the care of the ever expanding areas devoted to graves around their respective meeting houses.

The rest of us can be of help to our beloved dead by assisting these fine principled citizens. And the first thing to do is to meet with them at their several places of worship, there select a chairman who is a man of action, together with a secretary to keep records and a treasurer to receive and dispense funds.

Regular minutes of every meeting and every business transaction should be kept. Financial involvements to a penny should be reported at every meeting. Members should consist of persons who pay their part whether they are members of this church or not.

An active committee should be appointed to begin as soon as possible assembling historical facts relating to the cemetery. Somebody may remember the first person buried in the plot. From different people should be collected the names of persons related to the individuals who are buried therein. All epitaphs should be collected and arranged alphabetically in the secretary's book.

The name of every person buried in any plot under consideration shou' be learned and recorded as soon and as completely as possible. As soon as can be, a small marker should be placed at graves that lack markers entirely or have only field stones. If a tombstone becomes broken or indecipherable (and no one can be found to replace it), such an organization as we have outlined should charitably take up the question of its replacement.

Every marker should bear a number, which should be entered after the name or blank on the record. If the person buried in any plot is unknown, the person there interred may be later learned and put in front of his number as recorded on the secretary's book.

Some of our churches have already taken enheartening steps in the care of their adjacent cemeteries. Tails Creek and Mountaintown Baptist churches are among these. As one passes Cartecay Methodist church and notes the neatness of both the church and its burial area, he might profitably reflect that this condition did not come about by accident. Cartecay is organized to see that its premises are given care.

CHAPTER 21

Savor of The Soil (1875-1962)

These sundry little insights and incidents have been gleaned from 84 years of our history. They are retained more for their folkway quality than for the size of the stage on which they were enacted.

Droves of cattle pass through on their way to Atlanta.

Hogs are restrained from prowling the streets of Ellijay.

Ellijay is without a tie-back or a bustle. (A tie-back was a string fastened under an outer skirt).

A white owl lit in front of our office last Tuesday night and we captured it.

On May 31, 1876, this editorial rich in alliteration appeared in the Ellijay Courier: the piscatorial pedestrian now proudly perambulates over public places; and, with rod and hook, he haunts the homes of harmless hornyheads, catches the cunning cat, the elegant eel, the pretty perch; and, as the scaly sucker steals silently around the slimy bait and bites the hidden hook, he hauls him home as a warning to others of the finny tribe.

In other words, he goes fishing.

One little grist mill served the Flat mountain community. Its use was reserved for individuals on certain days of the week. Run by water from a small branch that wells up on top of the mountain, it was so slow the patron came by the mill early in the morning, poured up in the mill's hopper his bushel of corn and went on about his day's business. Late in the day he returned, stopped the mill and sacked up his meal.

The meal bin sometimes ran over a little. A hound dog belonging to the Miles Watkins family could be heard, at times, in the tiny mill. He was barking because the grist was not wasting fast enough.

In the early days of the public schools, Jim Dover told the writer he used to attend Loyal Cove school, so called because so many patrons were Northern sympathizers during the civil war. The house was log, and near young Dover's seat one log crooked enough for him to crawl through. He kept this passway glossy. For when the teacher said school's out he slid in a jiffy to the outside, beating everybody there.

On Jan. 16, 1876, corn was reported as knee high on Flat Top mountain.

Mrs. Matilda Dover, who lives with her son, John Sluder, in the Cherry Log community, has a basket made of rye straw and splints that holds five bushels. Although it has been made more than 60 years, the sides are good yet. Mrs. Dover has a fork, too, which is over 100 years old.

Hicks Jarrett has returned from Macon, where he took a drove of cattle. He also drove a herd to Charleston, South Carolina, and is not yet back from that trip.

"Hilda" writes the news from her mountain retreat with a pen made from a quill from an eagle's wing.

Someone asked an old Gilmer native how his wife was. He replied, "She's as pretty as she was 40 years ago." He was then asked to explain his statement.

He replied that as she grew older and faded his own eyesight dimmed in proportion to the change in her.

Dahlonega mail, by the time it reaches Ellijay, is old enough to walk.

"Igna Vording" writes poetry for the Ellijay Courier. (A name that sounds like a female viking).

There's no Stone Mountain if we don't go to Annie Logan's candy pulling. It's to be a recherche affair. (A few days later). The candy pulling was a success. However, only one young man was there. He is a student at Oxford, parts his hair in the middle, and laughs at his own shadow.

The books of Mary J. Holmes and May Agness Fleming are delighting the populace.

Claude Cochran of the Ellijay Courier is now safely married. His current contributions to the press are edited by his mother-in-law.

The old-fashioned North Carolina dance is becoming popular in our section

Christmas was celebrated here by firing anvils, bursting firecrackers and yelling generally.

"Gathering Shells from the Seashore" and "Drifting with the Tide," songs by Will L. Thompson, are popular. Other songs of the time are "Beautiful Isle of the Sea" and "Paddle Your Own Canoe."

A spotted mouse and a spotted mole are captured in Turniptown.

Two Gilmer boys caught five foxes a few mornings ago, and occasional others are reported as killing wild turkeys with stones.

Clarence Cobb gave to Mrs. Perry and the editor two large eels that weighed five pounds each. Colonel Cobb took from his trap 43 large ones and several perch.

Wouldn't it be a good idea for the postmaster here (Ellijay) to have a trumpet to blow when the mail comes in?

Wild pigeons are still numerous in this County.

Wild cats are killing young pigs by the score. Where are the hunters?

Frank Mealer counted 63 wild turkeys in one drove.

Beef cattle pass through Ellijay to Augusta.

Ellijay tires of the nocturnal shooting of guns and pistols within its bounds and passes an ordinance to punish such nuisances.

Many of the roots and herbs from which medicines are made are gathered from the mountains of Gilmer County, the Cobb Mercantile company of Ellijay buying in large quantities and shipping to a New York buyer.

Mrs. Mike McKinney told the author that when she and her husband ran a mercantile business at Chestnut Gap (in old Gilmer), they bought the following herbs: Ginseng golden seal, star grass, yellow root, lady slipper, pink root, sarsaparilla, rosin root and boneset.

The man who first taught Governer Joseph E. Brown is still living in Gilmer County. He is Charles Hyde.

We will soon begin the publication of historical sketches of pioneer days in Gilmer, beginning with its inauguration. Every citizen of the County should come up and subscribe for the Courier at once. The sketches began, accordingly, October 3, 1879.

The farmers in Cherry Log district are pulling fodder, killing sheep, eating mutton, grating new corn and having a fat time generally.

A drove of turkeys, 92 in number, from Union county, passed through Ellijay, en route to Rome.

John Withrow passed through Ellijay on his way to Atlanta with a drove composed of cattle, sheep and hogs.

Some 40 revenue officers encamp near the home of J. I. Jarrett.

Henry Kirby, on Flat Mountain, is accredited with having cleared, fenced and planted 30 acres of ground since January 1st.

Last Tuesday morning Bud Long brought the mail from Ducktown to Ellijay by 10 o'clock in the morning. Bud's roan mare is as good a traveler as can be found in north Georgia.

Zion Hill school has a 12-year girl named Lou Pickett who has spelled through the elementary speller by heart several times during the term without missing a single word. She has gone through Sanford's Common School Arithmetic, and is a good grammarian for her age.

The Cobb bridge, collapsing, comes near killing D. T. Jarrett and his hack load of passengers, five in number.

Lafayette Pettit grew a pair of peaches totalling in weight 18 ounces.

On September 1, 1884, a baseball club was organized at Ellijay. It was called the "Mountain Boys Baseball Club." Members were W. J. Auten, captain; W. W. Hyatt, secretary; J. B. Holt, treasurer; J. M. Greer, A. C. Greer, L. L. Bishop, E. W. Bishop, H. D. Hill.

From Fightingtown (old Gilmer) correspondent: McKinney and Kellar handle more barter than any firm in the mountains. They have bought and shipped about 1600 pounds lady slipper, 2,000 pounds mayapple, 1200 pounds pink root, 100 pounds ginseng.

The Laurel Mills of Roswell advertise for wool and offer to exchange jeans, tweeds and wool rolls for it.

George R. Eager, superintendent of the M & N G Railroad, and Maj. F. S. Wallace, chief engineer, have removed to Marietta.

Officers of the same railroad were announced as Joseph Kinsey, Cincinnati, Ohio; I. W. Pope, Cleveland, Ohio; A. A. Campbell, Atlanta, Ga.

The railroad turning table (at Ellijay) is working nicely. The builders (Reeves by name) were at work on it Feb. 5, 1884. The table stood between the Ellijay depot and the Cartecay river.

Miss Dixie Searcey, a Boardtown girl of about 17, hears a night disturbance among her grandmother's geese. Rising from her bed, she seizes a stick and assails their attacker, an eagle, and kills it on the spot.

Alf Bishop has a calf that enjoys choice literature. It ate Shakespeare's complete works.

A Singular Middle Name

B. Robert Bumblebee Black, Esq., went to Talking Rock last week. The following announcement appeared in the Ellijay Courier: Have Bob Black make you a pair of low-quartered shoes. He puts screakers in 'em free of charge. (This could be the same man that had a Bumblebee in his name).

John Shelton went snipe hunting with the boys Monday night.

Moonlight boat rides have ceased since the recent freshet carried away Mr. Duckett's big bateau.

Cattle can live in the mountains now (May 3).

The miserable (Ellijay) town pump is out of order.

A portion of the citizens of Boardtown have clubbed together and are building a handsome frame school house near the residence of Scott Burch. Hurrah for Boardtown! It is one of the most progressive and liberal neighborhoods in the County. (A cyclone later blew this building away, but Boardtown continued its forward course.)

The postmaster at Cherry Log, convinced the world is coming to an end, goes about warning his neighbors.

A Diamond citizen, John B. Woody, 86, cradled in the harvest field this season, cutting from 10 to 50 dozen bundles of wheat per day.

Rev. J. J. Harris, besides being a good preacher and boss farmer, is model bee hunter. When you see him lick the honey dew from a leaf, hoist his head and snuff the breezes, he is going in search of a bee tree.

Good morning, Mr. King.
I took a drink
Out of your cool morning spring.
Through the ring
The stream did run
And in the garden
This was done. . . .
Now, if you please,
Tell me the riddle.

The largest bob-tailed ground hog thresher that was ever seen in the country was seen on the mountain at William Aaron's last Monday a week ago. (This was on Aaron mountain several miles east of White Path springs. It must have been a terrific task to drag the machine up the rough, winding road to the mountain top).

Jack Pinson killed a pheasant (grouse) with a rock. Some 35 other birds got away.

Fields Chapman passed through Ellijay yesterday hauling a young bear that is seven months old and weighs 60 pounds.

Three or four thousand watermelons have been sold in Ellijay this season in spite of the fact that much of northern Gilmer is too cool for watermelons of the finest type.

On Friday last, William Craigo killed five wild turkeys at one shot.

Lindsey Harper and James Harper passed through Ellijay driving 57 head of beef cattle and 92 head of sheep to Atlanta.

We are proud of the tanbark walk extending from M. L. and W. A. Cox's store to our office.

Frank Dupree was rolling logs on a mountain side a few days ago and let a log get away. The log rolled and bounded to the foot of the mountain, where he had tied a mule, and killed the animal.

John Bishop, after remaining in Whitfield county a month and half for the purpose of rafting logs, returned home last Saturday.

Mark Mears is the best violinist in North Georgia.

Gid Mulkey raises oats eight feet tall.

There are no chiggers in Cash's Valley.

In 1881 gold is discovered on Spencer Burrell's farm in Cartecay. "All you have to do is to squeeze the goose and she lays the golden eggs."

Judge Brown, Cols. Glenn, Lester, Tate, Gober, Bell and Phillips enjoyed a strawberry festival at White Path while on their way to Morganton last Sunday. (May 31, 1883).

Colonel Towers of Rome, assistant keeper of the Georgia penitentiary, registered at the Central Hotel (Ellijay) last Tuesday evening. His business in this section, we understand, is to inspect Camp 14 of the M & N G railroad, and it is believed his report will be favorable to the railroad company. (Very likely he was interested in getting some firsthand facts about how convicts were being treated.)

Irwin Simmons of Cartecay lost eight hogs when lightning struck a hollow tree in which they were sleeping.

The clinkapin crop seems to be abundant, and the game hull gull is indulged in pretty freely.

During the autumn days of 1883 it took the M & N G railroad trains four hours and 33 minutes to run from Marietta to Marble Cliff, now Whitestone.

Julius Pickett of Mountaintown has the largest barn in the County.

Crawford and Ratcliff have completed their new flour mill on Mountaintown Creek.

B. F. Gates, J. L. and P. P. Carroll will go to Athens, Tennessee, to attend East Tennessee Wesleyan University.

The year 1883 witnessed an awsome display of meteors.

Lick Skillet Street (Ellijay) has lately been adorned with a new dwelling.

Tobe Ray has 179 partridges (quail). His boys caught them in a common board trap.

John Gooseby is said to be the best fiddler, and James Ballew the best singer, in the community.

A part of Mr. Duckett's mill pond was drawn off last Saturday and countless fish were caught.

Alto has two conjure doctors, Johnson and Chastain.

When J. W. Duckett's grist mill, saw mill, planing and shingle machines are all running in unison it has a soothing effect on the ears.

We noticed several bales of cotton at the Ellijay depot, a few days ago, that were grown and ginned in Gilmer County. (Though in the northern districts no cotton is grown).

Ellijay has 10 stores.

Alf Bishop keeps apple, pear and peach cider for sale.

Ellijay is the shipping point for several towns and communities in North Carolina.

One man in Ellijay already owns over 10,000 acres of land.

Arthur Pinson finds in Spriggs Hollow, Whitepath, a nugget of gold weighing 130 pennyweights.

During the recent freshet a barrel, suspiciously like a whiskey one floated heavily down the Coosawattee river.

We had quite a cyclone on the 16th, which blew down several trees, but no one was injured. Rob Johnson came very near being blown away, but he managed to get astraddle of an empty barrel and save himself.

Our section was visited by a deputation of Northern capitalists, who tied the bottoms of their pants legs to keep out chiggers.

Miss Mattie Jarrett is experimenting with silk worms to see what they can do in Gilmer County.

Hon. B. C. Dugger wore a locust back shirt as he passed through Ellijay on his way to Atlanta.

The sound of the grater and the apple mill can be heard early and late, the former sound reminding us that corn is about matured and the latter that there will soon be too much brandy for the general welfare.

The baseball mania has penetrated the sequestered haunts of North Georgia. The club at Ellijay is composed of sires, middle aged and urchins

An old man with a horse attached to shafts passed through Ellijay. He had a 40-gallon barrel attached to the top of the shafts, which were without wheels and dragged on the ground, Indian style. This was in 1885.

Rev. C. A. Jamison will preach the mass funeral of old Granny Randell, Misses Melissa and Millie, Mr. Billy and the infant child of C. K. Randell next Sunday at 11 o'clock. (This custom, a survival from still earlier pioneer days of few ministers and infrequent contact with those, meant deferred and accumulated funeral rites. The custom no longer exists).

According to old timers around Ellijay, Theron S. Shope, when a boy of about 16 and located at Ellijay to learn the printer's trade, went to a livery stable, hired a two-horse rig and headed north on a mission known only to himself. He was gone for hours, finally returning at dusk and driving furiously. As it was the season of ripe apples, brandy was suspected, by his associates, for the disorder and haste of his arrival back at the Teem Hotel.

Capt. M. V. Teem, proprietor of the place and on the job in his office, ignored the palpable tipsiness of a promising young guest. But—as soon as young Shope had settled in an upstairs bed, Captain Teem considered it wise to give the youth's bedroom a proprietary peek of inspection. He found the lad in bed with his boots on.

The Captain came back down somewhat grim of face and scribbled a notation in his register. Some young fellows loitering about the hotel lobby. noticed this, and, upon the first absence of Captain Teem, hurried over to his desk to see what he had written down. Opposite the name of his young guest they found this scribble:

"To going to bed horse fashion, $5 extra."

Marks and Brands

In a pioneer land of free range for livestock, it was most needful that every man that grazed the ranges keep legal track of his own animals. This was done by marks and brands. The following excerpts, with their old original spelling and capitalization, show how a few individuals marked their beasts.

Thomas M. Cox One Smooth Crop off the left ear, and a swallow fork in the right ear.

T. S. Ellis. One Smooth crop off the left ear, and an underbit out of right ear.

N. T. Tabor. A smooth crop off each ear, and a Split in the right ear. Also a stock brand: The letter T on the right hip. Or an X on each horn of horned cattle (1877).

Silas Smith. One Smooth Crop and an under bit off the right ear.

W. T. C. Quillian. Smooth crop off of each ear, and a split in the left ear (1877).

James C Mulkey. Crop and underbit in the left ear and crop and under bit in the Wright ear.

V. H. Lance. Swollow fork in the right ear and split in the left ear.

Merit B. Mealer. Crop and Split in Left Year under half Crop in the right ear.

During the recent snows Elbert and A. D. Weaver had a fierce battle with a wildcat but finally succeeded in killing him. The cat measured five feet from tip to tip.

N. T. Tabor unearths a pot of paint that was four feet underground and is supposed to be of Indian origin.

We listen for the "valley of dry bones" to be preached often during the coming summer, especially if the hitching rack can be seen from the pulpit. (A sly joke on the boniness of grass-fed mountain mules and horses that had been ridden to the meeting).

We wonder what has become of our very much perfumed and cologne-besprinkled friend, "Dear Charles." His scents will be below par since arbutus has begun to bloom.

J. P. Cole (wideley related in Gilmer) falls off Fort Mountain and is killed.

William K. Griffith has more than 100 hogs that are growing fat upon the bounties of the forest. His only care is to keep the hogs from going wild.

J. C. Cory is teaching a writing school near Tickanetley church. Bud is a good boy, and if I (Granny Jay) could call back 60 years I would set my bonnet for him.

1886-1889

The frozen streams presented a novel appearance during the freeze, and the millpond of Mr. Duckett, especially, was attractive for its beauty and possibilities for some skating. Some young men experts, attempting to sail over its glassy bosom, fell through.

Why does Professor Slagle use a mustache cup when the fuzz on his lip can scarcely be seen?

If people can shorten their days by playing twistification, we think the young people of this section (Roy) will not live much longer.

J. L. Fowler paid R. G. Bearden a visit on Sunday evening last. We hear some say that he went after a chunk of fire, but, by him coming back in the dark, we guess Bearden's fire was out.

Granny Jay put on her specks last week and and set out 18,000 tobacco plants and her old back is about to give out.

Rev. Joe Jones (brother of the distinguished Sam P. Jones), who has been preaching in this County the past two weeks, has returned to his home in Bartow. B. S. Holden, a young ministerial member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, attempts to talk prohibition to Ebenezer Baptist Church. After the congregation had about

gathered, two of the deacons objected to Mr. Holden's speaking in the building. He went just off the seven acre grounds and spoke in a grove.

After his address one of the deacons went to close the meeting house doors and windows and found three drunks among the benches. Clear Creek Baptist Church also closed its doors to Rev. Joe Jones when he wanted to talk on the same subject; likewise Tickanetley Baptists.

Reverend Jones is engaged to assist Rev. C. M. Ledbetter in a protracted meeting.

P. M. Larmon cuts down a hollow tree containing 12 rattlesnakes.

Tom Painter and his sons have caught 20 coons this season.

The people of White Path have been surrounded for the last week by a beautiful snow two feet deep.

Christmas (1886) passed off very quietly at Roy except that Felix Mooney was serenaded.

In 1886 the crest of floods at Rome reached 40.3 feet, a condition to which Gilmer must have been a heavy contributor.

Turner and Harris are manufacturing chairs on Rock Creek in Cherry Log district.

Sheriff Johnson of Pickens County sent to the Courier two teeth and a jawbone of an animal killed by his deputy, S. L. Mosley, near Sharp Mountain in that county. The teeth are very much like an opossum's and the tushes very much resemble an elephant's. We imagine it would look right alarming at night.

A Hand Car Party

A party of seven men went up to White Path the other day in an open hand-car. The group contained merchants, railroad men, depot agents, a doctor, telegraph operators, editors. The round trip, with five stops, was made in 75 minutes.

After a snack, some music and mineral water and a chunk of a chat with the ladies, the party started back for Ellijay. The thanks of the party are due Superintendent Glover for the use of the car.

This reminds the writer of being at White Path, some 10 years after the above incident. A small clutter of us boys were observing intently a crate, put off a train with a strange contraption in it, evidently a vehicle of some kind for it had three flanged wheels. Soon an important looking man showed up. He uncrated the thing—evidently laid down there in his name and for his use. He set up his vehicle. He rode on two wheels while the third wheel reached over to the opposite track and rolled along opposite the rider, who pumped it by forward and backward strokes. In pumping he held a cross piece, rod-shaped, that ran through a stout upright attached to the gears under the driver's seat. As that boss man pumped his way down the tracks toward Ellijay, we boys watched him enviously out of sight, wishing we could try our wind out on a contraption like that.

John Oliver of Pisgah failed in his wolf drive. But the wolves, wild cats and dogs are playing havoc among the sheep.

William Griffith of the Owltown community plowed up a weasel which lunged at him instead of running away.

In the same community, a plowman turned up $1,000 in gold that had been buried in a pine knot. This was probably White Path gold that had been coined at Dahlonega.

The chautauqua met last Thursday evening at the residence of J. I. Jarrett. Misses Annie Sutton and Bennie Johnson were elected members of the club. After a pleasant evening's entertainment by the charming young hostess, Miss Mattie Jarrett, the meeting adjourned to meet next at the residence of W. R. Welch tonight.

Col. L. P. Hills of Atlanta has been stopping some days at White Path. He came through the country by a vehicle drawn by a span of fleet and well trained ponies. Col. Hills intends to spend the summer at our springs looking after his elegant little park near them.

The following guests are spending some time, also, at White Path: Mr. and Mrs. Clark Howell of Atlanta; Prof. Alfred Barili, Atlanta; Miss Annie McKay, Macon; R. T. Pickens, Quebec, Canada; Miss B. Dixie McMillen, Boston.

Jonathon Withrow is foreman of the present grand jury. Mr. Withrow has served on some 50 grand juries and has been foreman 45 times.

You surely have not forgotten that chestnuts are taken here on subscription. Bring us a bushel—but don't all come at once (Ellijay Courier).

Andy Watkins to the Rescue (about 1889)

Andy Watkins, rushing to the aid of Joseph B. Tanner, prominent property owner of Gilmer, proves himself not only a hero but a marvel of strength. An 800-pound millstone, to be placed in a new merchant mill in Boardtown, was unloaded from a train at Ellijay and then rolled onto the station floor. It suddenly crashed through the floor, pinning Mr. Tanner beneath it. Andy Watkins instantly sensed his plight and single-handedly rolled the stone over and off Mr. Tanner, who was rendered a cripple the rest of his life. Early in 1890 he won a suit for damages against the M & N G Railroad.

This Boardtown enterprise, then being erected, still stands though falling into disuse and decay. For many years it has been known as the Jones mill, and is still owned by the Bud Jones family. It was a combination flour, grist, saw and planing mill. Some years before Henry Watkins is said to have set up a flour mill on the Ellijay river near the present village of Cherry Log.

Tanner did much to connect his mill with surrounding communities, sometimes personally bearing the expense of building roads. For years, the main public road passed the mill. Now it is on a side road.

July 10, 1890. Carey Padgett, sawmill operator, working in the Owltown community, cuts a hollow tree that contains two swarms of wild bees and 401 pounds of honey.

Incidents in Mob Rule

Henry Worley, who lived in Ridgeway district before the suppression of mob violence in that region, lost his life. But he did not die in vain, for the people began about this time the big push that suppressed these mobs.

Toward 1890 he tired of going with a mob whose main, if not only, purpose was to intimidate those who might help officers to lessen or dry up the flow of illicit liquor in their community.

The bad news (for him) got round among the White Cappers, his erstwhile cronies and, all masked, they called on Mr. Worley. And through the Cohutta mountains they took him, by night, miles from home to a point in extreme south Murray county. About midnight the crowd stopped at a big whiteoak tree. This

was near the junction of the Old Federal road that came in from the east and another important road running somewhat north and south.

After a short pause and mumbled conference, members of the crew (who had thoughtfully brought along a rope.) decided to hang Henry Worley on the big oak. Just as the final moment arrived when he was to ride forward a masked man eased up to him and handed him a butcher knife.

He concealed that. The free end of the rope was thrown over a limb. The loose end was now dangling and settling on the side of the limb opposite Worley. The whole party had ridden to this spot, and only two or three men had dismounted for these preparations. The rest still slouched in their saddles. The stark picture Mr. Worley saw, come daylight, was himself dangling and dead, a warning to all who dared to go their own way after learning the record of the mob around him.

Just as the loose end of the rope was caught by one of the men detailed to hang him, Worley felt his horse moving forward and the rope tightening around his neck. Whipping out his knife, he slashed the rope. Holding onto his knife, he slid from his horse and vanished into the woods.

For the time free, he made his way back home and uneasily resumed work on his farm. But on a spring day as he quietly reined his plow mule into his field. Cammie, his small daughter, was with him. Eyeing a seldom used road at the edge of his field, he noted two men on horses approaching. And, as they came closer, he saw also they were armed. Both wore masks.

He read the intent of his visitors, and at the same time came a natural feeling that here might be a part of the mob that had tried to lynch him. He stopped his animal and faced them.

In order to spare little Cammie, he pretended to need a little pin for the clevis of his plow and sent her back to the house for that. She had scarcely passed through a copse of timber on her way when gunfire rolled to her from the field. A moment later a frightened mule came tearing and plunging toward the house, its loose plow flying and bounding behind it.

This time Henry Worley did not escape the mob.

A Glimpse of Whitecappers, about 1889

In a relentless search for Bill Naylor, suspected of having informed on illicit liquor operations, whitecappers came by the Henry Tankersley home. Their spokesman, using a falsetto tone to disguise his own familiar voice, said to those who paused in the yard, "Come on, come on, let that poor widow woman alone. Not a hair of your head will be harmed, Mis' Tankersley."

Then he led off the group up the trail toward the Naylor house, near the residence of Ben Rogers. When they reached the Naylor house, members of the party called roughly for Bill. And when he didn't appear promptly enough to suit their whims, they burst down his door and forced him out.

They took Mr. Naylor across a ridge of the Cohutta mountains toward Murray county. In Buck cove they tied him to a hickory tree and gave him a merciless beating. The crowd then dispersed. When the victim of the mob had sufficiently recovered from his blinding agony, he gradually unloosed himself and went hobbling down the headstreams of Rock creek to the home of his father. Naturally he recuperated slowly. As soon as he felt he might go home without losing his life, he ventured back.

About five years after the beating of Bill Naylor, a neighbor who lived across the Gilmer-Murray line in Murray county, Bill Roper by name, was also beaten by

a mob. Some of the men in this mob were believed to have been in the one that assaulted Mr. Naylor. The excuse for beating Mr. Roper was that he was suspected to have furnished facts to those who prosecuted attackers of Naylor. The mob attacked Mr. Roper June 11, 1894.

Roper was taken forcibly from his home, and after being beaten atrociously, was flung into a mineral pit 25 or 30 feet deep, where he lay, bruised and battered for about five days.* For water, he sucked rotten wood.

A neighbor woman who kept a cow that ranged in the vicinity of the abandoned shaft, being out looking for the animal, heard a strange moaning in the pit. She brought help to explore the place. The rescue party brought Roper out.

Later, Mr. Roper testified in court that he definitely recognized the voices of some of his attackers. Apparently discounting Mr. Roper's chances of ever coming out of that hole alive, the mobsters had stolen his watch. At the trial, he also said,

"Since this is the day of judgment, I want that watch back."

Wash Redd and several other men were convicted and sentenced in the Roper case. Mr. Roper went West and became a citizen of Texas.

In the spring of 1891 Henry Cantrell reports that a tree on a mountain near Marble Cliff has been on fire five months.

On July 30 a certain (but unnamed) damsel "is stuck on Jim Johnson and his mule and gully jumper."

County School Commissioner William F. Hill discourages the ancient custom of blabbing. (This custom was on its last legs when the writer entered school in Gilmer County, and was permitted only during special periods. Being small, I sat behind larger boys and clowned by issuing a steady sound (or blab) by rapidly striking the tip of my tongue against the palate and upper lip. I was not important enough to attract any notice by my irregularity).

Montgomery M. Folsom, poet and newspaper correspondent, visits Ellijay in the interests of the Atlanta Journal.

Uncle Samson Boatner of Cherry Log is pert and tending a patch of corn that will yield 50 bushels. He will be 98 the second of next month.

Among the singular names of this and other periods are: Bloof Bearden, Tood Eller, Bug Hunt, Hig Newberry; and visitors to the county, Buckshot Forrester, Kid Quinn, Monk Cook, Strange Mathison, Sim Sparrow, not to mention Buckskin Bill Chapman, Honest Morris, and Mrs. Candy Coffee, natives.

More names of the same type follow: Candy Stover, Golden Goble, Miss Asta McGhee, Doodle Soup (name of a Boardtown news correspondent), Shug Long, Licy Anderson, Boss Newberry, Miss Arling Sitten, Chig Patterson, Miss Lockie Gentry, Teen Ray, Ethel Zero Dotson.

Straat Evans, Mrs. Lyon Smith, Fathia Weaver, Greenhorn School, Sheep Pen School, Green Cordial, Bluford Byess, Dood Milton, Ode Cantrell, Duck Watkins, Dink Waters, Coon McDaris, Miss Larky Duckett, Coats Hyatt, Miss Friendly Lucas, Reelus Davis, Sumpter Evans, Cruzer Smith, Fess Wimpey, Marmaduke Swann, Miss Creola Tatum, King David Quarles, Ky Sanford, Goodlove Patterson, Mealie Rogers, Lit Holt, Dal Redmond, Miss Meeky Bozeman, Delphia Anderson, Okay Patton, Orange Leatherwood, Washey Southerland, Mrs. Nova Kinnett.

Joura Hicks, Can Peek, Mardenia Suits, Miss China George, Bozie Fowler, Ruff Pence, Aster Everett, Coot Miller, Ep Allen, Wis Smith, Jonc Owenby,

*Levi Branham thinks it was "eight or nine days."

Lone Cantrell, Lonie Kirk, Pleas Davis, Lakey Elliott, Filo Teem, Miss Caddie Painter, Juny Davis, Snap Bug (Connesauga correspondent November 10, 1893), Miss Pharaoh McCarthur, Tom Tit (pen name), Mrs. Pop Gregg, Cash Trix, Legrand James, Miss Sillie Moore.

Cricket Carter, Pick Henderson, Love Keel of Talking Rock, Dottery Lance, Star Grit (named of a community), Whit Letterman, Cade Ratcliffe, Bun Pritchett, Rouse Ellington, Lump Chastain, Wid Plumley, Sookey Ward, Heg Ellington, Bly Osborn (part Indian), Miss Met Sawyer, Zoah Beaver, Mrs. Kizz Swancy, Ghoul Mountain (in Bucktown), Rev. Medical McQuerry.

Miss Brilley Cantrell, Mrs. Snow Ballew, Miss Mink Wright, Sam Holler (a hollow in Bucktown), Vacillus Rogers, Denver Jones, Miss Lassie Cornwell, India Padgett, Cola Goble, Mrs. Neecy Stanley, Miss Atlas McArthur, Miss Raso Dupree, Author Key, Phona Souther, Body Sitten, Wilda Davis, Palestine Wilson, Miss Azza Crump, Aid Woods, Finny Ray.

Cutie Ray, Miss Cebu Wood, Brit Kell, Starling Red, Miss Gem Red, Pauline Honey, Miss Mourrin Grogan, Miss China George, Mrs. Way Whitener, Miss Getta Stillwell, Miss Zinnie West, Pinch Penny (a community), Aunt Parthena Wishon, Pean Ray, Orestes Briant, Miss Jettie West, Fult Waters, U. R. Low, Tump Calhoun, Miss Teleta Davis, Sally Soapsuds (pen name), Biddie Lynn, (pen name), Pamp Holder, Bucksnort (a community), Miss Suda Allen, Trickum (a community), Utie Southerland, Mrs. Honor Gentry, Miss Valor Burnett.

J. E. Tallent, principal of the Ellijay Seminary, sitting quietly at his desk, was startled by a sudden and vigorous flapping of wings succeeded by a terrific reverberation from a rooster concealed in the hollow of his desk. This outburst had been timed to occur about this time by some mischievous boys who had concealed the rooster in the desk.

Columbus Curtis and Tom Berry march their respective schools to drum and fife to a halfway point and celebrate with music, speaking and recitations the landing of Columbus.

It is estimated Gilmer County is roamed by at least 4,000 dogs, most of them worthless, needless that at one time were estimated to be killing 500 sheep a year. More and more Gilmer needs a humane society at Ellijay (the logical center of the County) to care for homeless dogs and cats. Too often such animals are abandoned along our roads.

Col. E. W. Coleman, hearing on Nov. 8 of the election of Grover Cleveland, filled his four-foot-tall beaver hat with 10 gallons of kerosene and set it on fire "amid the yells of the populace."

The Ellijay Baptist association decides not to receive delegates from any church that sanctions the manufacture and sale of whiskey by its members.

Bill Clayton, topped off with a stovepipe hat, was circulating among friends Saturday.

Late in 1892 appeared this advertisement: I want to buy all kinds of game. Squirrels, rabbits, 6c each; possums scalded and scraped, well dressed, 7 to 8c per pound; coons dressed, 8c; wild turkeys, 10c; venison hams, 10c; quails, larks, doves, all I can get, with feathers on; dressed chicken, 8 to 9c a pound. Nothing salted. Bring on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Mr. Brock of Tennessee, father-in-law of our townsman, T. N. Stansbury, has been visiting relatives here. Mr. Brock is an old Mexican soldier, and was one of the gallant 400 that hewed down the iron gate of old Mexico City, and he was among the 100 survivors.

Talona is a pleasant little place. We have as fine land as there is in Georgia. It is a little station situated on the M & N G railroad, and has two stores, one blacksmith shop, one furniture shop. The community is rich in marble, iron ore and minerals of several other kinds.

Talona (once spelt Tal-loe-ney) and located several miles further south was the first post office established in Gilmer County. It has been discontinued several years.

The intriguing name, Barefoot Branch, applied to a slight stream in Boardtown district, is said to have got its name because a backwoodsman, once passing by, saw barefoot tracks made by a man in the snow.

The year was marked by a notable flood at Rome, the crest of the flood reaching 37.2 feet. In such cases, Gilmer is usually flooded first.

During this period Tom Briant, then in school, showed fellow students how to get through a textbook and get through with it at the same time. According to his sister, as soon as he had recited a lesson he tore it out and threw it out the window, winding up the school term with book covers only.

In the spring of 1893 the William Aaron family had already begun moving off the Aaron mountain, east of White Path. Theirs was one of the few Gilmer families to establish a home on a remote mountain top.

Duckett and Gunn of Ellijay advertise "plain and art furniture," and J. W. Fowler was blacksmithing there.

"If some of our visitors would quit reading our copy on the cases and our type in the galleys, we would be much obliged. This practice is decidely unmannerly and ill bred."

Around 1897 Tom Defoor lived near Cross Roads meeting house. As winter came on he managed to complete a dwelling and moved into it. But he had to defer building shelters for his livestock, his beasts, for the time, being left entirely outdoors. One night as usual, the animals lay down on the frozen ground near the house. That night it snowed heavily. Mr. Defoor, up early as usual next morning, went out and looked about to see how his cattle were doing in the snowstorm. They were nowhere to be seen.

He noticed several mounds in the deep snow and also noted these were of different sizes and corresponded to the number of his cattle. By coming still closer to the humps he noted further that each had air holes made by the warm breath of the cattle. He called his young son, who became Rev. J. S. Defoor, to view his discoveries. The fluffy snow had fallen so gently the sleeping cattle had not bothered to rise occasionally and shake it off. They simply lay and took it till they were all blanketed like polar bears.

T. N. Stansbury at Ellijay manufactures horse collars of whang-sewed, hand-made kip.

M. S. Swann, at his wool carder, removes burs and guarantees to give, in exchange for wool, good rolls.

Editor Ellington of the Courier records over a bushel of corn, half a bushel of turnips, a big pumpkin, a load of wood, a load of pine kindling, $2.50 in cash, and a load of promises on subscriptions.

On a train headed south from Ellijay, a neighbor of Julius Pickett contacted him and suggested that Mr. Pickett step aside and sample a bottle of whiskey the neighbor had in his pocket. Upon tasting from the bottle, a reflective, questioning look came into his face, and he remarked, "That tastes like my own liquor."

He went on to Atlanta. When he got back home in Mountaintown district, he found a tunnel had been dug under his storage house and two barrels of liquor from the Pickett registered distillery rolled out. He had two men and a boy arrested.

Ca. 1894

Fayett Withrow and W. T. Pickett kill a bald eagle, six foot five from tip to tip, in Mountaintown district.

Mrs. Stephens (probably Mrs. George A.) of Ellijay exhibits a family heirloom in the shape of a gourd which has served as a container for coffee and the like since 1779. It was grown in Franklin county by Mrs. Stephen's great-great-grandmother.

"Uncle Jim Patterson of Boardtown plays blindfold with us children. . . . Jay Suits chased a turkey clear out of the County and brought it back with him."

W. C. Padgett was in Ellijay recently and informed us that he is still opening up new discoveries in his old mine, presumed to be Spanish, lately discovered on Bear Den mountain in Boardtown district. New discoveries in the way of pottery, carvings and possibly crucibles have been made.

Note. The presumption about Spaniards in relation to this ancient quarry should be regarded as guesswork. Wiley Plemmons told the writer that Indians, after the arrival of a considerable sprinkling of whites in Gilmer, were still going to this quarry, or outcrop, for stone, which, on account of its soapstone character, could be shaped and would not crack under heat. From it he could make a number of useful articles.

The prolonged search around for buried treasure or mineral wealth was, from the beginning, just a waste of time. What started this, perhaps, was the misinterpretation of striae on the flat rocks near some of the carved rocks. These little grooves puzzled everyone, especially since they ran evenly along by each other like railroad tracks down the mountain side.

They were misread, in that they were undoubtedly thought to be the work of man instead of nature.

Since these marks, scratched there by glaciation in the far past, actually turned down at one point and ran into the ground some 15 feet (as revealed by excavation), they were still more confusing, seeming to have a relation to the carving and things hidden from sight.

But the presence of the striae had no relation to the carving, were there purely by coincidence. They did cause people to dig about and prospect for minerals that were never found.

In 1895 Cleve Smith of Boardtown is bitten by a black dog believed to have hydrophobia. He goes to Blue Ridge, where reportedly he took treatment to prevent rabies. A mad-stone was applied to the bite. As the cure "worked," it is presumed the dog wasn't really rabid.

A. E. Sharp and Squire Withrow discredit an old saying in the County, "run like a turkey," by outrunning and catching, in a sight race, a wild turkey gobbler.

A small girl named Curtis picks up a Spanish coin dated 1798, and a week later her father, W. E. Curtis, finds another dated 1799. Some years prior Gaines Roberts had picked up a Spanish dollar. He had found one in 1891; also still other coins dated 1811 and 1821 and "bearing the Spanish seal."

J. L. Abernathy's cow has gone back to her old home in Tennessee.

Joe Allen says his legs are both mortgaged—for gun barrels. There, there, Joe! Legs that straight would let a fellow fall over.

Harve James kills two turkeys at one shot. Monte Smith has killed 19 this season.

Joe Plemmons catches a 60-pound beaver on the Cartecay river.

J. E. Anderson is finishing a medical course at Chattanooga.

W. F. Langley, Barnett Holt, and others furnish news from the Indian Territory.

Recent snow on the highest mountains—May 16.

Ben Bearden has just returned from a sparking tour in Fannin county.

Charles Perry is soon to start a sawmill in the Devil's Den.

Horace Ellington versifies on the fickleness of Gilmer's weather:

From cool to hot, from hot to cool—
At noontide we perspire;
But when the evening shades appear,
By George, we need a fire!

Withholding his usual coolness toward President Grover Cleveland, he offers, June 27, 1895, this little comment in rhyme:

What though the treasury be low,
What though the papers whine,
Out on the sea doth Grover go
And cast his hook and line.

E. Goble's fine game rooster froze to death in the snow.

Three Italians and two bears struck us on Tolona during the big snow.

"Owltown Hoots" heads the news from Owltown.

J. R. Wells and his brother, out in the mountains last Monday, shot a huge rattlesnake off the precise tree limb from which J. R. and his father shot one 12 years before.

A new Ellijay grocery store opens with a tuneful ditty:

We've something good to tell you
That you didn't know before,
You'll find ice cream and good cold drinks
At Smith and Green's new store.
You'll find bananas and soda pop,
The finest you've ever seen,
And lemons and—well, most everything
At the store of Smith and Green.

A Negro preaches to the white congregations of Ellijay and East Ellijay. The minister teaches the 14 Negro children of Gilmer County.

L. M. Greer has an interesting collection of Bibles. One, printed 1827, belonged to the Ellington family and has the family records of the family of Rev. William Ellington; also, another brought from South Carolina by Moses Greer in 1834. It contains a record of the Greers. He also has the family Bible, printed in 1827, of Asa Reed.

Rev. Bethel B. Quillian of Cass Station, Ga., has been visiting friends and relatives in Gilmer. Uncle Bethel is 81 now and getting feeble. But his mind is clear. He can relate many interesting events of the old times. He was a pioneer settler of Gilmer. He was once a representative of Gilmer County, and was also in the Georgia Senate six years in succession while he lived here. He has been preaching the gospel for more than 50 years.

N. L. Osborne's apple crop is estimated at more than 5,000 bushels.

William Wells has cut off his burnsides. Don't banter William to wrestle if you don't want your shirt muddied.

Aug. 8, 1895. Mrs. (Zilphia Ann) Godfrey, the photographer, was up last week and made some pictures, especially of the group of young people on the bluff. Come again Zilphia, you and Jim.

The writer would like to pay tribute, at this late date, to the memory of Mrs. Godfrey. For without her energetic travels about Gilmer, especially in the northern part, where she once lived, we should have missed pictures most important to our history as a county and the record of some of us as individuals. She was the daughter of Ben Dugger, a notable of his day. She removed to Fannin county in 1896.

On last Thursday night Misses Sallie and Pearl Hyatt gave a delightful spider web party to a few of their friends.

Miss Rachel Wigington has a pair of pet hornets.

People in Town (Ellijay) must keep their cows up at night or they will find them in the pond. J. W. Fowler, Marshall.

Note. This must be a misprint, as no doubt Mr. Fowler impounded rather than drowned stray cows.

(From Ellijay Courier)

The drink question can be summed up in the simple Saxon word of three letters r-o-t, rot.

Rot of barley, rot of corn,
That's where alcohol is born;
To his rotten nature true,
To rot is all that he can do—
Rotten men and rotten boys,
Rotten hopes and rotten joys,
Rotten fame and reputation,
Rotten politics in the nation,
Rotten ballots, rotten cause,
Nursed on Nature's rotten juices,-
Rot is all that he produces.

One of Ellijay's rare jailbreaks occurs when prisoners run over John Hunnicut and Tildy, his wife, when the couple opens the cage door to feed them.

Flat Creek Baptist church forbids preaching in its pulpit from any minister who does not hold to the example of foot washing. "Watch out, you dry-foot preachers."

What about our street lamps (in Ellijay)? We pretend to keep up street lights yet for the past year no lamps have been lit except two or three occasionally on the public square. Notwithstanding all this, the town pays $24 a year to have these lamps lit, besides the cost of oil.

The croquet yard at the Mountainview Hotel (Ellijay) is the most popular place in town.

J. L. Duvall had a rail mauling last week and says he got nearly enough rails split to fence his new ground.

Ellijay's baseball team, composed of Bob Milton (captain), Herschel Teem, Boyd Mulkey, Huse Elliott, Jim Shepherd, Juan Hipp, Bob Sellers, Otis Hyatt,

Tim Cantrell, defeats the Jasper team at Ellijay, August 21, 1896. On the fourth of the previous July it had also defeated the Murphy, N. C., team at Murphy.

During this period the newspapers made a note of individuals purchasing a bicycle.

A Kissimee, Florida, dealer in alligator skins wastes in Gilmer by advertising for such hides. Wild alligators are unknown here. It is likewise useless to attempt to market malaria cures or to spread "negro" almanacs over the countryside. For our Negroes. only about a half a dozen (1962) in number live a mile northeast of Ellijay and compose a single family.

The ad writer for Hopper's store must have been an understudy of Barnum: "a herd of elephants and monkeys on exhibition at Hopper's."

An Owltown philosopher hoots that "sympathy does not always soothe," to which we'd like to answer: but it soothes oftener than scolding.

Math Bennett, living a mile out of town on the Boardtown road and near the Ellijay river, reports catching six beavers in a single night.

Hundreds of wild geese wintering on the Coosawattee river, a very rugged, isolated region a few miles southwest of Ellijay, attract hunters. Dave Smith killed three at one shot last week. One of the geese weighed 13 pounds dressed.

William Sluder has a two-day log rolling but does not get all his logs rolled.

A tri-county meet, Gilmer participating, schedules to meet in July at Jasper to weigh the welfare of schools and teachers.

In another meeting of educators, this time at Ellijay, the subject of discussion was "theory and practice." Murphy C. Briant, having a successful career as a teacher, was asked what his own theory and practice were relative to whipping students.

His answer created a sensation with its aptness, some of the response of the audience being in the form of laughter. "Theoretically, I don't whip," he said, "but practically, I do—sometimes."

Ed Shepard has taken a contract catching o'possums for J. S. Simmons.

J. F. Fore will start to the mountains Monday with a crowd of hands to peel tanbark.

"The men who succeed are the men who fight all the harder when the cold winds of adversity blow through their whiskers."

Tom Taylor and R. O. Ralston went a hunting on Talking Rock creek recently. Tom killed two turkey gobblers and a deer without moving out of his tracks.

G. W. Taylor, postmaster at Rober, catches an owl seven and a half feet between the wing points.

A magic lantern and phonographic show was held at the Court House (Ellijay) last week.

J. R. Woodward has a large school at Ridgeway. One of his scholars is 50 years old.

C. M. Tatum has cut and sold a million shingles.

1897

Tails Creek is stirred over the reported appearance of the "Boogerman" to a dying man in an adjoining section of Murray county.

Tom Bryan had a big quilting last Saturday.

Around January 25 ice skating was being enjoyed at Ellijay's mill pond. "It sleets and it snows, it rains and it blows, and it's cold stormy weather." The mills are about all frozen up and getting bread stuffs in rural sections becomes an acute problem. Ice is four to six inches thick and snow thicker.

William Weaver, Negro barber of Ellijay, upon his son's marriage, tenders a wedding supper to white friends.

Turner Crenshaw, who recently killed a bear, brings the hide to town.

H. I. Smith has a beard over four feet long.

"Some young men are contented to wear overalls and plow shoes that are paid for. Another class wants the latest tailor-suits of the most modern pattern and design, and a nasty cigarette in his mouth."

We boys of the writer's neighborhood in upper Gilmer had never seen a cigarette till we saw boys around the White Path hotel smoking them.

On Talona a shock of rye, struck by lightning, burns in a downpour of rain.

Ellijay's baseball team is now known as the "Ellijay Reds."

Dolph Meece and Burt Harris, both of Mountaintown, while on a hunt in the Bald Mountain region, kill the largest catamount that has been found in many years.

"Spring is almost here, the birds have come heralding the near approach of rosebuds and apple blossoms; tender emotions for the young and hard work for the old," Henry Clay Curtis, writing from Blue Ridge, Ga., says.

Tomorrow is good Friday. Plant your beans.

Miss Nellie Pierce writes of her mission work in Korea.

Every vote for Governor goes to Allen D. Candler.

Ellijay post office is allowed a postal clerk.

The County, along with the nation at large, is stirred over war with Spain.

Ellijay council sells its school bonds.

The manufacturing interests of Ellijay are not many, it is announced, "but it is an extensive lumber, crosstie, tan bark and barter market."

Neal Gentry brings a load of watermelons to Ellijay, from the southern part of the County, at a date remarkably early in July for such a crop.

Mrs. Harve Mederis places an old supposedly empty gun barrel on her fire as a forestick. It explodes, shooting her in the leg.

Close of a quaint old obituary:

Why should we mourn departing friends,
Or shake at death's alarm?
'Tis but the voice of Jesus sweet
To call them to his arms.

When a covey of quail suddenly burst from under the feet of George Holloway he threw out his hand and caught one on the wing. George Frady was with him.

A Gilmer countryman of the old days cut a round hole in the ceiling of his back porch large enough to admit some of his small sons. When bedtime came, he

simply pushed back the hatch that covered this opening and boosted the boys through the hole for the night.

"Magic lantern exhibition of the Cuban War will be held at the Courthouse tonight, November 3, 1898."

Adam Teem dies in Tickanetley at the age of 93.

Ale Barnes sent us six slim, sleek, slain squirrels last week.

The present singing convention, held twice a year at Ellijay, is now said to have been organized at Oakland school about 1898. Though John M. Greer frankly believed he and S. J. Perry projected it at New Salem, a Baptist church, opposite the modern Boardtown school, even earlier while teaching a singing school there.

Homer Mulkey, by exercising his sense of humor and taking considerable license with the mother tongue, comes up with an ad for Merchant DeJournette that, at least, has the merit of originality.

The best cheese that ever was chose.

The best prunes that ever were prun.

The best candy that ever was can'd.

The best ink that ever was unk.

The best pickles ever picked.

My sweet tater seed are the best you ever seed.

An Ellijay editor, wishing to inspire more advertising, advises:

When the grasshopper ceases to hop
And the old cow quits her bawling,
Then it's time to shut up shop
And quit your advertising.

During the last fall and early winter Esquire Alfred Ingle caught, within sight of Ellijay, 60 muskrats, four minks and one beaver which weighed over 50 pounds.

J. C. Pettit has a gourd which was grown in France prior to the year 1760. In that year Mr. Pettit's great-grandfather, a French merchant, migrated from France and settled in America. He brought the gourd, used for spices, with him.

J. C. Whisenant, one of our visitors Monday, is an exception to the rule among widowers, for he tells his age and says he does not want to marry a young woman.

We believe this to be none other than the hatter, Calloway Whisenant, who is said to have once lived on or near Whisenant mountain that at least perpetuates his name. From what we heard in childhood his occupation was slow and tedious, though his outlay in tools and equipment was said to have been simple and few.

Oakland Debating society elects C. R. (Charley) Ray, president; C. R. (Roscoe) Allen, vice-president W. M. Thompson, secretary; Eula Tabor, critic; and announces a debate on the subject, Resolved that the hypocrite is a more despicable character than the liar.

Later the society debated whether there is more pleasure in hope than in memory.

Ca. 1899. A child born on the bitter cold night of Feb. 12, 1899, was named Ethel Zero Dotson to commemorate the weather.

Will McGill, since his release from the army, has enlisted in the fight against General Green, and may now be seen killing weeds instead of Spaniards.

We hate to see the "great Pyramid" demolished, and think they might let it stand for a lighthouse for air ships. This rather prophetic remark was written May 2, 1899, and referred to a tall smokestack at the Shippen lumber yards.

Uncle Brack Painter is in the mountains singing up rattlesnakes.

John Joyce, digging a well on a level of ground above present high water in Ellijay, strikes 30 feet down a log and brush. Mr. Joyce told the writer some of the tree branches were tulip, or poplar. Tom Stephens of Ellijay helped Mr. Joyce in his well digging and remembers the incident. But nobody remembered to save the wood for examination by geologists and to be put in a museum.

On September 26 Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Tabor celebrate their golden wedding.

County School Commissioner L. M. Simmons announces substantial prizes in a writing contest for both teachers and students of Gilmer County to be conducted at the county courthouse, October 14, 1899. Through local papers and a committee of high-standard citizenship, a cash prize of $10 is offered for the best short essay against the use of intoxicants in elections.

"Miss Romania Welchel is one of the best teachers that ever wielded the birchen scepter."

J. E. Dart, expert beekeeper, brings a large shipment of honey into Ellijay. Mr. Dart probably carried on honey production on the most extensive scale in the County's history. He specialized in sourwood honey.

He is said to have lived in Mountaintown district where Glenn Ellis lives now. This was a wise location for it included a range reaching into the Cohutta mountains. Many people still remember Mr. Dart. Those consulted thought he came from some Northern state.

John Ioma, an Indian, speaks in Ellijay.

Farmers are bringing in to market 17 pound cabbages and 10-pound beets.

Charley Allen brought a whole wagon load of stills into town Tuesday evening. He said there were 20 in all, 19 of them cluttered about a much larger one.

Feb. 14. Ten degrees below zero at Ellijay, some other points reporting 14 or more. Peaches are killed—many of the trees. Snow covers the ground, with keen, piercing winds from the north.

Jeff Turner's 61 rabbits scatter and he wants them recaptured on shares.

Heavy snow and ice gripping the land mark December 7.

During the recent cold spell Willis Woody's guineas wouldn't be cooped but flew up, instead, into a tall tree. That night they all froze and fell out dead.

The nineties see a continuation of efforts to develop Gilmer's gold deposits, confined mainly to the northern half of the county. Rather crude methods of mining have so far been done, and the gold has been almost all placer type, stamp mills having been employed in but two or three cases. Some geologists suggest that deeper digging might reveal more gold, and cite how some other states have sunk much deeper shafts than any ever done in Gilmer and have been successful by it.

Spring snows whiten the mountains.

"When the shrill whistle of the whippoorwill resounds from the forests, and the trees put on their soft mantle of green foliage and the sweet fragrance of the honeysuckle is borne softly to us by the mellow spring breeze, then we shall feel assured that spring has come in earnest."

Tennis starts at Ellijay.

Uncle Billy Patterson lives at the foot of Granny mountain, in Mountaintown district, resplendent in memory for huckleberries, chestnuts. possum and coon. He caught four coons in one tree. He is gone now to catch wild hogs and more coons.

Ellijay has organized a group of musicians called the "Noontootley String Band."

Ca. 1900. A new mission school at Morganton, in Fannin county, attracts patronage from Ellijay and Gilmer County at large. It was at first called North Georgia college. It ceased its worthy work in 1924 and was succeeded by Fannin County High school.

The Ellijay Brass Band is organized and looking for a teacher. A little later we learn

"The Band Boys, under their teacher, Mr. Ryne, are making progress that is very fine."

The Ellijay Library association revives . . . William Joyce gives a candy breaking . . . The Ellijay Institute entertains . . . and Mrs. Hyatt gives a special Thanksgiving dinner.

The exodus westward, which began practically with Gilmer County's history, continues.

A "Bohemian Supper" is sponsored at the Hotel Hyatt, Ellijay, for a library fund.

Streams and other bodies of water are frozen over thick.

An apron and necktie party is celebrated at Col. J. C. Evan's.

J. W. Whitner and Jim Holt rout three wild cats from a single hole into the snow.

Martin M. Barnes sends the editor of the County paper 11 squirrels and a chicken on subscription.

Rev. P. P. Carroll, reared in Gilmer, educated at Athens, Tennessee, and in Northern institutions, writes from his present location in Byfield, Massachusetts.

S. A. Hyde started across Town Creek the other day with a wheelbarrow and a hog when ker chug went wheelbarrow, hog, hair, Hyde and all.

Ade Woods had a big log rolling last Saturday . . . Annie Lovinggood will move onto Little Pike's Peak just west of Esquire Simmon's.

"Go to R. L. Smith, the photographer, and see if he can take a picture of you without breaking his apparatus. Gallery near the jail. (in 1901).

"Just out beyond the jail you will find the photograph gallery of R. L. Smith. You should have your beauty struck if you have any to strike. If you have no beauty, the crows need scaring."

Mike Clonts, mistaking the crack of Plate Hudson's ox whip for pistol shots, races into Ellijay and swears out warrants for some neighbors for "shooting" his brother Sam.

John Souther, cutting logs above his house, accidently let a cut roll down the hill. It crashed into his stove room, turned over his cupboard and demolished his dishes.

A special train will run to Marietta next Monday to hear Bob Taylor lecture.

Seventeen-year locusts, spring of 1902, appear by the millions. They damage the bark of many trees. Dogs and hogs feast upon them. They are said to have appeared, also, in 1868 and 1885.

Mrs. Fannie Bishop exhibits an extraordinary rose.

W. S. Coleman, president of the Georgia Press association, and former Gilmer citizen, wins the meeting of the association for Cedartown, his present home.

Uncle Joe Smith relates killing four wild turkeys at one shot, and that by sparing hens he missed two more that might have made it six.

In collecting hives of wild bees, N C. Norris thinks he has found a type that prefers to live on the outside of a tree rather than in its hollow or an enclosed space of any other type. At least he has found them living that way, presumably from choice.

The developing automobile is referred to locally as "festive" among New York's "Four Hundred."

Dave Miller of Cherry Log begins the long drive to Alvarado, Texas, in a covered wagon drawn by four mules. He completed the trip, too.

Swann and Simmons announce they have their carding machine in order. They charge eight and a third cents a pound for carding wool.

Gilmer boasts one cotton gin operated by Miles Teem.

George Patterson and Frank Quillen are floating logs down Cartecay river for Shippen Brothers.

On June 13 the thermometer was down to 32.

On account of Sam Jones religious meetings at Cartersville, special excursion railroad fares are in effect.

Henry Goble of Tails Creek brings his wife to Ellijay to see the railroad train.

Henry Jones blasts out of the ground part of a petrified woman.

Lawrence N. Ward, Gilmer native but later of Nashville, Tenn., on a visit to upper Cherry Log district, about 1902, rode up to the J. B. Tanner home on a high hill. His mount was a one-eyed plow horse.

The day was warm, and while Lawrence played with a younger boy, Joe Tanner III, a relative, he forgot his horse till time to go home. He looked where he last saw the animal grazing but it was nowhere in sight.

By a very little tracing and tracking about, he found more and more evidence the horse, in feeding about the steep west side of the hill had presumably put its blind eye forward and lost its balance, then its footing completely. It rolled and tumbled down the hillside and over a cliff or two, crashing about 2,000 feet below onto the edge of a field traced on its western edge by a railroad.

Since the horse smashed down about everything in its path, it was soon traced to the foot of the hill. The hardy beast was still lying down, evidently badly battered but, amazingly, still sound of wind and limb. Lawrence soon roused him and led him by an easy route back up to the Tanner home. The lad was soon slowly plodding the five miles home.

Back down on the Ellijay river the home to which the Ward boy was bound had an unsolved problem: who was the butter thief? He and his grandfather, with whom he lived, kept their butter (after a common enough custom of their day) in a tight little "spring house," through which the branch from their spring ran. Almost as soon as the branch cleared the tiny house it emptied into another little stream. The diminutive house, guardedly built, was proofed in stoutness against dogs and other animal instrusion. The water had little more than room to flow in, and out again. No thief had ever got into it and bothered the butter or other foods kept there.

Yet one summer day the lid of the butter dish had been pushed off and most of the butter eaten, what remained in the dish being mashed about recklessly and smeared with dirt. There were no tracks or other tokens of what nature the intruder might be. But intrusion there had been. Lawrence N. decided just to clean the butter dish and wait for the thief to venture back.

Several days later he suddenly opened the spring house door and there was the thief—right in the butter! He had gobbled up, already, some of the butter and was smearing dirt on the rest. He was a huge bullfrog that had followed the spring branch up from the Ellijay river 100 yards away.

Ca. 1904. John Sluder of Cashes valley recalls that General John B. Gordon got off his horse and walked so that John's brother, Cal Sluder, disabled, might ride the general's horse.

A panther is reportedly seen in the Cohutta mountains.

Snow covers the County and greatly handicaps travel.

E. L. Cowart says he plowed up a yellow and black snake that had a horn on its head and a sting in its tail.

Sarvis (shad) berries are ripe and the small boy is happy.

Snow arrives November 13.

"Last Thursday there passed through East Ellijay an old woman leading a horse hitched to a buggy, in which a little boy rode. The old woman had a stick in her hand. Her outfit consisted of a herd of Jersey cattle, including a huge bull, a drove of hogs, six dogs, a coop of chickens, a box full of cats. They were headed northward, the dogs herding as they all went along.

"But no man knoweth from whence they came nor whither they were bound."

1905

In January zero weather succeeds a snowfall. In February the thermometer drops to three and more below zero. Tails Creek reports nine. More snow. The severest cold for several years.

An Ellijay firm ships over 300 wild rabbits in one day. Such a spurt in marketing game invariably followed prolonged cold and snow.

April 6. Snow again covers the mountains.

Eight year-old Reed Sparks heroically grabs small Henry Dotson by the heels and jerks him from a moving mill wheel.

M. J. Webb, merchant, offers shoes that are a treat for the feet.

Agitation for rural mail service is growing.

F. W. Cook and Kimsey Reece purchase a mery go round for entertaining the public at stops while traveling.

Andrew M. Searcey, while excavating for a new store at Cherry Log, uncovers a square grave cut in the slate rock and containing well preserved human bones, a two-edged knife, bullets, pins and beads.

The West seems no longer to be gaining its erstwhile volume of immigrants from Gilmer through attractive railroad rates. At any rate that region seldom advertises such rates anymore.

"Mast" (chestnuts, acorns, hickory nuts, and the like) is so plentiful many hogs are still fattening in the woods.

"Ten Nights in a Bar Room" is played on the stage in Ellijay.

Two boys possum hunting near Ellijay became "turned around" and walk nearly to Blue Ridge, 16 miles away. Daylight turned the boys back around and they headed for home.

On December 6 Dr. J. M. Bearden kills 11 wild turkeys.

The Ellijay band is scheduled to perform at the Rip Van Winkle show Thursday night.

Ca. 1906. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sluder are the proud parents of pretty bouncing twin daughters, who have been named America and Rhode Island.

"This is a big country, full of money and opportunities. Many things potentially profitable are dormant or actually going to waste. Great profit could be made by utilizing our idle, or but partially appropriated, timbers, metals, clays, as well as in stock-raising, poultry-raising, beekeeping, and multiplied other ways."

Mrs. Nancy Watkins, though beyond the century mark and Boardtown's oldest citizen, retains her mental and physical qualities remarkably. She is said to have, in her younger years, chopped, dug and plowed like a man. She and her husband accumulated quite an estate.

Henry Grady Jr., son the late Henry W. Grady of Atlanta, was in Ellijay this week (April 19, 1906). He was accompanied by his brother-in-law, C. H. Black (the father of Eugene Black, former director of the World Bank and great-great grandson of Henry Grady I of Gilmer County), also of Atlanta. Mr. Grady, while in Gilmer, visited the old home of his father's grandfather in this County, which stood on the Chatsworth road near the present residence of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Dover.

Mr. Black has bought Mrs. Champion's Boardtown farm and will make his summer home in this delightful climate. This place is a mile east of Salem meeting house. In the 1890s it was the home of John B. Kincaid.

John Dale, 88, pensioner for services in the Indian wars (and probably removal), who rides as straight as a young warrior of the race he fought, spent Friday night in Ellijay.

Jim Troglin this week brought in to Shippen Brothers lumber company the largest poplar log we have seen for a long time. It was drawn by three yoke of oxen.

Jeff Starks, the Ellijay jeweler, got his arm severely bruised when he became mixed up with a yellow jacket's nest, fell and suffered the injury.

May 14, 1908. "The elbow sleeve and the peekaboo waist season is here again."

Hugh Edmondson has a fine apple orchard which he grafted mostly from native north Georgia seedlings.

Sherman Henson recently shipped a mixed load consisting of cattle, sheep, goats, hogs, and turkeys to Atlanta.

John Reece of Pike sells chairs of his own manufacture.

By the fall of 1908 prices paid for produce at Ellijay were an improvement on the past:

White beans	$2.00	Irish potatoes	.60
Clay peas	1.75	Sweet potatoes	.50
Rye	1.10	Eggs	.35
Corn	.75	Sorghum	.35
Apples	.50 - .75		

C. R. Hix and J. A. Logan opened a blacksmith and gun shop two miles west of Ellijay.

Mountaintown Baptist church was established in 1840, and Rev. N. L. Osborn remembers the first funeral held there, having attended the service.

Jack West gathers over 500 quarts of cherries from five trees.

There is a mocking bird that sings every morning opposite our office, making melodies that are sweeter than the instruments of art. Our song birds should be protected and allowed to multiply in peace.

M. H. Brockman has built 340 chimneys in Gilmer.

Ca. 1910.

We presume all our readers have seen the comet, which rises before four o'clock in the morning to the left of the morning star.

White Path baseball team does some effective playing.

Jasper Parks says he saw rabbit tracks in the clouds before the last snow.

Postmaster Ellington of Ellijay receives a paper dollar inscribed "my last dollar, my old friend; goodbye, old pal, you have served me well."

On 504 acres of ground during 1910 Gilmer produces 173 bales of cotton.

Ca. 1911-1920

Jim Goble was here Saturday sporting a new automobile-back buggy.

The Republican party is increasing, the stork having left Sunday three brand new boys at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dotson. This family contains 16 children, there having been three sets of twins and seven single births previous to the triplets.

James Crook catches a 23-pound catfish in the Coosawattee river near Ellijay.

Burley Quarles caught a young eagle that measured five feet two inches between his wing tips.

Dr. Bill Bradley, native son, spreads amity by bringing his friend, Dr. Santiago Paniello, of Spain, on a visit to Gilmer.

J. E. P. Smith gathers 45 bushels of apples from one tree, and produces an individual apple that weighs a pound.

After touring 21 states, Joe Davis concludes the best looking women are in southern California.

Ca. 1913. Lightning strikes the premises of John Rogers and 45 of his hogs vanish.

The other night the marshall of Ellijay chased and shot at a fellow with a jug. But the pursued man held to his esteemed little jug, you bet.

The honeysuckles (wild azalea) and dogwood make a perfect glory of both valleys and ridges nowadays.

The moto cycle is causing disturbance as well fun its rider. Recently, a horse, was so frightened by one he fell dead.

Lightning struck Charlie Foote while he was milking, shocked him sharply, and knocked the milk out of his bucket.

Misses Elizabeth and Ruth Shippen travel extensively.

Ca. 1914

L. U. Martin, September 9, purchases the Tom Tabor estate, of early association. This was already a settled place in Indian days. White settlers, fearing a Cherokee uprising, gathered at the Tabor home in a common camp and cooked about a big outdoor fire while the Indians were being gathered and removed from the region in 1838.

Ca. 1915

Pink N. Johnson, January 4, hauls 600 cured possum skins to Ellijay.

Snow! snow! snow!!! and how many of you boys and girls like to feed the little snowbirds? I, for one, enjoy it very much. (Anonymous Mountaintown correspondent, April 1.)

Lawson Bearden planted his ginseng patch in skeleton food Saturday.

C. W. McClure of Atlanta is at the Hotel Hyatt. Mr. McClure owns some 300 acres of land near Northcutt.

John Hunnicutt says that, while he has always given the man who beat him in a political race a pair of shoestrings, this time he is going to let the other fellow do the giving.

Several of the delicious, richly colored types of apple that seem to have mutated, or sprung suddenly from seed in Gilmer County, besides the yellow Gilmer Pippin that shows relation to the red Yates, appear during this period. On July 29, Albert Withrow, in advertising his nursery stock, includes an apple referred to as the Gilmer Pippin. He also offered a second apple of local origin, the Walking Stick by name. The name was in honor of Cherokee Chief Walking Stick. In August 1914 Bob Evans announces he has two fine specimens of apples that have originated in his orchards, and are as yet unnamed.

Don't forget that during these beautiful autumn days the editor's family gets hungry three times a day. We could use a jug of new sorghum on subscription (Ellijay Courier 1915).

Possible P'vaporation

The stir of the old-time rural revival is held in pleasant memory by many natives. But while the shouting, singing, handshaking was at high tide, an old brother at Tickanetley is said to have quitely observed to a friend of his just outside the meeting house: "All this may help some of the folks, but in the main, it will soon p'vaporate."

John Hunnicutt, candidate for coroner of Gilmer, does the rare thing of being interesting and humorous, as well as philosophic, in view of the solemn duties that office might entail, Oct. 20, 1916. Says he, "This is the appeal of your humble servant to the voters of this county for their support in my candidacy for coroner.

"This is a very important office, and may involve the arrest of the sheriff himself, which I shall not fail to do, if elected and furnished a proper process. I have had experience as far back as the sixties (being a Confederate veteran) in post-mortem examinations of the physical dead; and, in more recent times, of the political dead, and will be found ready, in either case, to hold a proper inquest to determine the cause of death, where suspicion points to foul play, and there were no witnesses to the tragedy.

"Most seriously soliciting the help of all voters, and hoping that the books of the office are not in so bad condition as at first reported."

I am, obediently yours,
John Hunnicutt

The rail-mauling and quilting given by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mulkey last Friday was attended by about 50 people. The men and boys made several thousand new rails, while the ladies plied their needles with so much dexterity and dispatch that they made four new quilts ready for use. But the best of all came at noon when the family table was spread with delicious viands prepared by Mrs. Mulkey and to which all present did ample justice. And the closing touch of the day came when a prankster wrapped another member of the party in one of the new bed quilts.

Two newspaper correspondents sign themselves "Crabapple Blossom" and "Terrapin Bill," respectively.

The resin of the sweetgum tree, frequently found in the County, is quoted at seven dollars a pound. Honeybees flavor their honey with it, too.

Land Norris and John Goolsby win cash prizes in a music competition at Copperhill, Land on the banjo and John on his fiddle. John also won a bucket of lard for the largest family and a lantern on his looks. The same men won a competition in LaGrange soon after.

A fishing party will meet at Tucker Ford Saturday night at 7:30. Everybody invited. Bring a girl and a fish hook.

Geese picked the tassels all out of Miles Southern's corn, from which he expected a generous yield in a few weeks. But he still has the geese.

Berry Allen has a prolific cow, credited with triplet calves, her second set of triplets in two years.

Ca. 1920

The shooting match at Will Reece's Wednesday was quite a success.

Lawrence Holt discovers his bees, degenerating under the temptation of easily accessible brown sugar they have been finding around illicit distilleries (whereabouts undisclosed), have been storing the sugar instead of honey in their hives.

Women, balloting for the first time, cast a light vote.

Ca. 1921

Charley Evans, from a volunteer pumpkin vine, harvests 12 pumpkins. But Mayor J. L. Weaver, before he quit farming, probably did better by gathering three wagon loads from a single hill of pumpkins.

Ca. 1922

On February 10 several hundred wild geese were reported staying about the confluence of Tails Creek and Coosawattee River.

A boy named Ray finds a perfectly preserved tomahawk, presumably Cherokee, on the Albert Ray farm in Turniptown valley.

L. P. Akins has moved to Gilmer from Union county and is making his home on the old Posey Sisson place in upper Cherry Log district, where he has already established a ginseng farm.

"Uncle" Bail Rackley has faith in our mountain herbs, roots and barks. He says he has made beneficial bitters by compounding seven kinds of these ingredients.

In a vast wilderness 12 miles north of Ellijay stood for more than 100 years the "Big Buff" apple tree. Though never sprayed or pruned, it bore for 90 years or more very large fruit.

Land Norris, combination musician and fur buyer, arrives at Ellijay with cured skins of mink, coons, possums, skunks, muskrats, two deer, and a bear.

Ca. 1924. "Spring comes reluctantly to our mountains. But when it does! Jonquil, narcissus and hyacinths upon the lawn; iris, violets, anemones and bloodroot in the woods; the shad bush, with its perfume, followed by the dogwood. Orchards, breathing perfume, show the white of plum, pear and cherry bloom, and pink of peach blossom. Apple trees are another splendor. And the birds intermingle with all these the charm of their melodies."

Won and Lost

A neighbor of ours bid on a mail-carrying contract. Somewhat bedazzled at the monthly and annual stipends, he bid far under (too far in fact) others that competed for his contract. Not until he found himself the winner did he begin to do closer figuring on what pay to expect by the day. It came out 20 cents.

On September 26, 1924, Land Norris was successfully recording folk music.

Among the apples most in favor in Gilmer are Kinnard's choice, Stark's delicious, yates, Rome beauty, Gilmer Pippin, Staymen, Ben Davis, limbertwig, jonathon, Grimes golden, york imperial, winesap, Detroit red (norga), early transparent, Fanny, Wilson June, horse, black ben, sugar, early harvest.

Jim Anderson still makes chairs in Tickanetley.

A strange animal supposed to be a martin was recently killed in the County. (February 26, 1925).

This is a good year for bees. A swarm strayed to a neighbor of ours who put them in a crude makeshift gum. He has already robbed them four times, each time finding the gum full of honey.

J. B. Davis is the first citizen to vote under the newly adopted and established Australian ballot system, which went fully into effect September 8, 1925.

A panther has been seen around Whitestone.

Ellijay enjoys a spelling bee after the old order, words being selected from the ancient Webster Blueback. Mrs. T. W. Craigo rates first in the contest.

Ca. 1926

Gilmer people are trickling back from the Florida boom and subsequent deflation. All are wiser, few richer.

In the spring of 1926 Joseph G. Collins of Gainesville, in announcing for Congress, appeals for Gilmer support:

I was born in a log cabin on a farm in Union County near where Joseph E. Brown, our great Civil War governor, came out driving a yoke of oxen to get to school. I did not have the oxen. Poverty compelled me either to do without an education or make my way. Carrying my provisions from home, I did my own cooking and laundry at Hiawassee nearly three years.

After graduating there, at Mercer and in law at the University of Virginia, I located at Gainesville and have practiced law since 1902.

He wasn't elected.

Snow on Flat Top mountain May 15.

T. C. Plemmons, who knows the wild, claims a panther cracked bones in his yard and tried to enter his house.

John Hyatt sells $1500 worth of cabbage and Irish potatoes from two acres of ground.

Ripe figs are gathered, for the first time known, in Ellijay.

On October 16 a Ford truck climbs Flat mountain. The driver, however, burns out his brakes in trying to come down.

Caleb Weaver, attacked by a wild hog, is gashed till it requires seven stitches to close his wounds. J. I. Fowler exhibits the tusks of another wild boar that are 12 inches long.

On October 24, 1930, small quantities of wild chestnuts are still coming into market at Ellijay. Although blight of trees has been in progress about six years.

M. H. Stanley produces 385 gallons of sorghum on one and one-half acres of ground.

Twelve inches of snow in the mountains.

For the last 30 years Gilmer is known to have been buying seed Irish potatoes from upper Maine. More recently it has added Idaho and Minnesota potatoes.

The Bucktown school, taught by Leman Weaver, except for two children named Newberry, is composed entirely of Weavers.

W. P. Clayton, Gilmer apiarist, gives a feast of watermelons, December 6, 1931, right from the patch. Mild weather in part accounts for the remarkably late crop.

J. H. M. Weaver offers special instruction in penmanship at Green Horn. This was the last "writing school" we have heard of in the County.

After a winter almost devoid of cold, with many signs of spring in December and January, chill strikes late in March.

The general financial stringency becomes so acute and persistent the Red Cross, through a committee composed of Mesdames L. L. Daugherty, E. W. Watkins, J. P. Cobb and W. R. Smith, with Dover and Logan co-operating, begins emergency relief.

Lawrence Derden asserts pioneer stamina by hiking eight miles every morning to attend Oakland school.

Ellijay still has a livery stable operated by a man named Pierce.

As late as December 3, 1932, a sheep buyer collects a truck load of sheep in Bucktown.

A devout old man, said to have been Emsley Mann, was once "leading prayer" at Buckhorn Baptist meeting house when he used a little colloquial expression that created a sensation and is still repeated to the rising generations:

"Lord, have mercy on Boardtown, for it's in a ding of a fix!"

Mrs. Tom Rogers of Mountaintown killed a deer with a hoe.

Turkey Burch could eat nothing containing wheat flour, to which he was highly allergic.

Charles Patterson, neighborly, good-natured miller of his time, hated shoes till after breakfast.

A man in an upper district rejoiced that mountain streams spread "literature" over his creek bottoms.

Gilmer once acknowledged (but did not boast of) a man who simultaneously taught school, cut crossties and made liquor.

Mrs. Kin Newberry, early in 1946, found an ailing fawn in the woods. She judged it to be about six weeks old. She brought it home and nursed it with a bottle, naming it Sally. The fawn grew up in the household almost like a child.

However, late that same year, Sally wandered away into the woods. The Newberrys finally, with deep reluctance, gave her up for lost. But Sally, after a long delay, came back—a fawn at her heels. The youngster was all white except for a brown spot between the ears. It was called Beauty.

A baby arrived to bless the nuptial night of one Gilmer couple.

The writer was spending the night with a mountain couple. After supper we all gathered around a simple old-type fireplace in which there was a small fire. A bunch of crickets swarmed out of the cracks and crevices on the left side of the fireplace.They crawled across the hearth toward us until they came to some bread crumbs and droplets of milk the host and his wife had left for them. Having eaten, the crickets turned and went right back to their hiding and chirping place.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Crawford move from their home four miles west of Ellijay into Ellijay itself. Understanding that it was bad luck to move a cat, they left theirs at their old home. Ten days later the cat showed up at the back door of the new Crawford home.

Feb. 5, 1936. Jack Williams brings in a five-inch eel to prove eels are hatched in our waters, not in ocean dephs. But this could have been an adult of some species of small eel.

We wish we had our eels back. It used to be fun to catch them. But these huge dams across our streams seem to have ended this type of fish.

C. D. Sellers introduces a new seedling apple which he found growing wild (volunteer) on Springer mountain. He states he was led to the tree during the season of ripe apples on the parent tree. He found himself on a trail with bear tracks. Side trails brought in more tracks. He came to the tree from which the bears had eaten nearly all the apples. The fruit is fine, yellow, well flavored.

A turkey hen of the Tails Creek community "steals" her a nest (trying to be naturally secretive, we presume) in the woods and shows up in due time with her brood of baby turkeys. But they were mixed with chickens and quails.

On August 17, 1939, Fred Hall is reported to have captured a 43-pound turtle in the Coosawattee river.

Rats are accused of storing 30 pencils, pens, rulers and other school supplies behind the ceiling of Bucktown school house. We ourself suspect flying squirrels.

Lawrence Holt of Owltown has pole beans 40 feet high with beans all the way to the top.

J. A. Findley drives a wagon and team (Dec. 18, 1943) into Ellijay. His load is watermelons. He says he expects to have more melons ready for the market by February.

The ambitious taxidermist, C. D. Sellers, Nov. 2, 1950, offers to mount "anything from a frog to an elephant."

On March 8, 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Twiggs were marooned by ice and snow in an isolated part of Diamond district. Reece Brothers of Ellijay supplied them with groceries, which were delivered by helicopter from the Army Ranger camp of Dahlonega.

February 9, 1961, "Uncle" Rufus Suddeth is honored by a memorial marker at Clear Creek cemetery in honor of his having helped to dig, without charge, 200 graves for the deceased of the community.

The advertiser for the Beacon company of Ellijay opines correctly that "when the price of duck feathers increases, down will be up."

Ray N. Jones of Boardtown returns home after three years in the U. S. Navy to find his father sitting by a sorghum pan just as he had left him.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Boring and Delmar Troglin last week brought into Ellijay two catfish that weighed around 43 pounds each.

December 2, 1961, former Gilmer citizen, Mrs. A. P. McIntyre, has a hobby of creating folklore characters from Uncle Remus. She has also fashioned, using papier-mache horses, Santa Claus and Little Black Sambo and the Tiger.

Oct. 11, 1962.

Hope is expressed in the local paper that blight-proof chestnut trees may once more begin to be spread about the County to replace those blighted beginning about 1923. On November 22 the idea is advanced that, once we scatter trees about, the squirrels, busying themselves in their ancient habit of burying nuts in season for the forthcoming winter, "will do the rest."

An Editor's Musing: when we see those huge advertisements spread in the papers by candidates, we begin to wonder who will finally pay the bills. The offices don't pay much if conducted in the public interest.

When Ike Coram of western Gilmer was a boy of about 16, he lived on Rock creek in the mountains of Murray county. A neighbor of his was Newt Dyer, a bear hunter and fisherman in his day.

Late one day the Coram boy was approaching the home of "Uncle Newt" by the creek. He noticed on the upper side of the road a new fence Mr. Dyer had just built from chestnut rails laid zig zag along the hillside. The mischievous idea suggested itself to him that here was a fence not well staked, and if he pulled down one panel of the fence a dozen other panels would follow.

He tried it, and here came the fence tumbling into the road. He went on past Mr. Dyer's house and on home. But that night his conscience hurt him for a dirty deed done a harmless neighbor. Early next morning he was up and down to the home of Mr. Dyer, whom he found up and eating breakfast by a little oil lamp.

The Coram boy cleared his throat and seemed hesitant. Mr. Dyer invited him inside, also to sit at the table and have some breakfast with him. The youth soon admitted how he had wronged Mr. Dyer. Uncle Newt hesitated a moment, then said,

"If you are not going to eat breakfast with me, just keep you chair till I finish eating. Then we'll both go up and build back that fence."

Jottings from a Diary

Jottings from the diary of Mae Weaver McClure, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. M. Weaver of Tickanetley district, will close our presentation of historic fact of Gilmer County. Mrs. McClure was born May 27, 1904, and died January 6, 1946, at the age of 41.

Perhaps it was from her father that she inherited her yen for putting things down on paper, he being a former teacher of the County and an expert pensman. Much of his fine script remains in the permanent records of the County filed at Ellijay. In fact, the writing of Mrs. McClure herself, while she assisted her father in transcribing county and state records, remains in the same record books at Ellijay and in Atlanta.

Poised, brief, always restrained, stoical, puritanic, with remarkable freedom from vanity, she had the insight to see that every life should have something in it worthy of note. And she had the genius and energy (in the face of terrific odds) to continue her jottings from day to day that will give to future years a cross section of a simple, pioneerish life that is fast vanishing, and will never be again.

The diary begins when she was 12 years old. Her own wording and spelling have been retained.

MAE WEAVER McCLURE
May 27, 1904—January 6, 1946

Friday, January 4 (1917)
Snow on the ground. Cold. Ma went to grandma's.

Sunday, January 6
Warm and it rained. Uncle Kate (Caleb) staid all day with us.

Monday, January 7
Cold and snowing. I went to GAP's. School begin today. Truman (Weaver) teacher.

Tuesday, January 8
I went to school. 17 scholars. Ernest P., Sarah Mulkey and Mat W. was here.

Monday, January 14
I went to school. 15 scholars evening. Bad night. Rain and wind. Ma staid all night at grandma's.

Tuesday, January 22
The ground was slick with ice and the trees was bending down. Cool. I went to school. 13 scholars. Pa went with me.

Tuesday, January 29
We killed the hog.

Thursday, January 31
My teacher came home with me.

Saturday, February 2
Warm. I piled and sawed stove wood.

Thursday, February 14
Warm, Cloudy and rainy. I went to school. 28 scholars. Pa and M. M. went to Ellijay. Ma went to Grandma's. We staid all night at granney's. Ma went to Mulkey's.

Sunday, February 17
Me and Pa went a hog hunting.

Thursday, February 28
Pa and M. M. came in from the "railroad" (probably Rome or Cartersville. The men had left February 20, thus being gone more than a week).

Friday, March 15
Cool. Went to school. 25 scholars. School is out today.

Monday, March 18
Windy. I cut corn stalks all day.

Tuesday, March 19
Warm and cloudy. Homer, Ga, Ernest, Elisha Stover and A. L. Kimsy was here. I went up to grandma's. I sprouted all day.

Wednesday, March 20
I pasted papers all day.

Thursday, March 21
M. M. killed a fox.

Thursday, March 28
Me and Ma went to grandma's to make my dress.

Thursday, April 18
We got the shop burned up.

Sunday, May 5
I went to meeting and Mulkeys.

Sunday, May 12
Me and Pa went to the Low Gap a cow hunting.

Wednesday, May 15
Warm. Mat and M. M. helped us plant cotton all day. (An unusual experiment in her mountains, where the cultivation of cotton is rarely attempted).

Monday, May 20
Cloudy. Rained in the night. We planted the old bottom and worked the Bee gum hill.

Monday, May 27
Hot. We planted corn all day. I am 13 years old today. Sam Stover got rattlesnake bit today. Aaron Southern got his house burned up.

Friday, June 14
Hot. We hoed corn in the old Bottom and Lucy hill. Pa plowed the Bee gum hill and the Harty choke piece.

Monday, June 1
We all went and cut a bee tree. We all was at grandma's and hoed corn behind the stable.

1922

Saturday, July 20
Pa haled (flailed?) the rye.

Tuesday, March 7
Windy. Pa and I were at Grandma's. Pa howed two cross ties. Tandy Mooney passes through the yard. Pa went nearly to Tandy's.

Saturday, March 11
Fair day. Pa went to Grandma's. Pa got three loads wood. Frances and I washed. Frances took dinner with us.

Thursday, March 16
A fine day. Pa went to Jerry Fowler's. I went to Grandma's. Pa made some Rails. Ma and I scrubbed kitchen.

Tues. March 21
Cold. Pa hauled 4 loads Rails, 1 load wood in A. M. M. M. was here in A.M. Pa cleared out fence roe a Bove house.

Monday, July 31
Fine day. Pa worked on tax books. I went to school.

Wednesday, September 6
A fine day. We all went to Grandma's. We pulled some fodder and cut some apples.

Tuesday, October 26
A fine day. Pa and Ma and I went to Grandma's. I went to G. W. M., and Worth, Mat, M. M., Zonie N. were there. We had a apple cutting tonight. The apple peelers and cutters staid till 12 o'clock. Ruth and Zonie staid all night.

Thursday, November 9
A fine day.

We all started to the R. R. Stopped at Roy and Burrell's and camped at the Ellington Branch.

Wednesday, November 15
Rainy. Pa went to A. M. Lowman's corn shucking.

Thursday, November 30
Clear and cool. We spent day and night at Uncle O. A.'s. We all, Ruth, Aunt Ann and Lizzie, went to (Canton) negro town. Ma, Ann, Ruth and Lizzie went to the mills.

Wednesday, December 27
We got a quilt out.

Friday, December 29
I went to A. L. Kimzey's and J. B. Weaver's, Sr. We had a cotton seeding. Mat, M. M. D., Ernest P., Kin, Ruth, Zonie, Minnie N., Lester, Boon, Floyd,

Bonnie and Kittie W., Cliff. Flora W., Alfred and Robert M. were the seeders.

Monday, January 25 (1926)
Cloudy and cool. I run drawing (mill term).

Wednesday, January 27
Fair and windy. I went to the mill and was laid off. Come back and am at home all day.

Saturday, February 13
Cold and snowy. Ann come with me to (Canton) depot. Then I come on home. Ivory McClure met me at Ellijay.

Tuesday, June 29
Rained in A. M. Daddy, Mother, Mat, M. M. and I go dewberry picking.

Tuesday, July 6
We come via Diamond and on home. Mat and M. M. were here. Mat, Mother and I went a Huckleberry Picking. No luck. Cloudy, some rain.

Tuesday, August 31
I strung and threaded some beans.

Monday, September 6
Heavy rain at noon. Zonie and Melvin were here. I sewed some, also strung a few beans to pickle.

Tuesday, September 7
Picked beans. Gathered grapes and canned some apples.

Thursday, September 9
Cloudy most all day. I washed in A. M. and pulled some fodder in P. M.

Tuesday, October 12
I hope make some kraut.

Sunday, November 7
No mention of the writer's marriage, which occurred today. She merely mentions making a trip with her husband.

Saturday, January 1 (1927)
Fair and cold. We (Mrs. Ivory McClure and her husband) went to Mr. Alley's near Woodstock and rented a place.

Monday, March 28
Fair and windy. We planted our garden. Signs in Knees.

Wednesday, March 30
We sat Top Knot on 17 eggs.

Wednesday, April 6
Ivory and Jim went to hunt a hawk's nest. Signs in Twins. Sowed tomato seed.

Wednesday, April 13
We move to Marietta, Manget Street. (But soon returned to Gilmer).

Saturday, April 23
Cold. We went to town in A. M. and made chicken lot in P. M. and to Jim's after Top Knot and 11 little chix.

Saturday, April 30
Showers. Ivory worked till noon. We planted four rows okra. Signs in feet.

Monday, October 1
Some rain. Ivory went muskadine hunting.

Thursday, October 13
Fair and cool. Ivory piled up pumpkins in P. M.

Sunday, October 23
Fair. Aroplane passed over at 11:30. Also Jonas Carter preached his first sermon at Tickanetley.

Wednesday, November 9
Foggy A. M. and fair P. M. Ivory made Sambo a house.

Monday, March 19 (1928)
Ivory went with M. M. to Sam Holler.

Sunday, April 15
Cool and cloudy. Ivory hope dig Kin Parker's grave.

Sunday, February 14 (1932)
Rainy. Ivory and Otis went groundhog hunting. Luck, one.

Saturday, April 2
Fair and windy. Ivory went to Pa's after duck eggs.

Monday, April 4
Some cloudy. Ivory and L. A. worked at turnip patch. I set one quilt top together.

Tuesday, November 30
Fair. Dad gave a grubbing. We all ate dinner and supper there.

Wednesday, December 7
Ivory went coon hunting at 2 A. M.

Saturday, February 4 (1933)
Rain in A. M. Clearing and cold in P. M. Ivory went to a fox race tonight.

Sunday, February 5
Fair and cold. Ivory and Cotis went over in Diamond dog trading.

Wednesday, March 8
Cloudy. Ivory went over the Mountain in P. M.

Monday, May 1
Cloudy, with rain in P. M. We went fishing, luck 12.

Wednesday, May 3
Fair. Ivory went fishing. Luck 4 and 1 turtle.

Thursday, May 11
Fair. Made me a dress. Ivory and Jonathon took calves to mountains. Had trouble.

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